



*St. Stanislaus School is a Roman Catholic, Franciscan, co-educational Pre-K through 8<sup>th</sup> grade school. Students are assisted in developing their potential spiritually, physically, and socially within a safe and diverse community. A foundation of academic excellence is created to prepare students to become contributing members of a global society.*

March 3, 2020

Dear St. Stanislaus Families,

We understand that many families have questions regarding the recent outbreak of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) and how it may impact our local community. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is providing daily updates and recommendations. Please click on the following link to stay updated <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>.

In addition, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) has shared guidance for school administrators and school health personnel regarding the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), and as of this writing, Massachusetts has one confirmed case of COVID-19 and the risk to our residents remains low. However, it is important to note that residents are more susceptible to becoming sick with a cold or the influenza virus than being exposed to COVID-19. Furthermore, here is a useful fact sheet in many languages to assist you all in learning more about this virus: <https://www.mass.gov/guides/information-on-the-outbreak-of-2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19#-printable-fact-sheets->

In today's connected world, with a large number of school families traveling during school vacation weeks, the potential for infectious disease is always of concern. As with seasonal flu and strep infections, there are general precautions that we all can follow to remain as healthy as possible:

- Practice good hygiene by washing hands often and thoroughly with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, avoid touching one's eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands, and use alcohol-based hand sanitizer when soap and water are not available.
- Cover one's mouth and nose with a tissue or one's sleeve/inside of the elbow when coughing and sneezing. Used tissues should be thrown in the trash and hands should be immediately washed with soap and water.
- Avoid sharing drinking glasses, cups, eating utensils, dishes, towels or other items. These items should be thoroughly washed with soap and water after use.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick whenever possible.
- Get plenty of sleep, be physically active, manage your stress, drink plenty of fluids, and eat nutritious food.

The Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) is an evolving situation that we as a school, along with the City of Chicopee schools, are closely monitoring, and please know that we are diligently tracking student health concerns. In fact, we are in regular communication with the Chicopee Health Department, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, as well as pediatric health care providers in the community. Lastly, our Maintenance is vigilantly sanitizing our educational spaces as we typically do during cold and flu season.

We, at St. Stanislaus School, remain deeply committed to all of our students' and staff members' wellness and safety, therefore we will continue to share new and pertinent information with you all as the situation continues to evolve.

Sincerely,

Sr. Cecelia Haier, FSSJ  
Mrs. Karen Shea  
Administrators