

In this stressful time of colds/flu/Covid-19, please know that we remain extra vigilant in our efforts to reduce the spread of germs and viruses. In addition to the cleaning service, we have a second cleaner who is deep cleaning and sanitizing the classrooms. All teachers use Chlorox wipes and Lysol spray after the students have dismissed and/or before school starts.

Please review the importance of careful handwashing with your daughter. To help avoid spreading illness, please do not send your daughter to school if she is sick.

The Diocese of Brooklyn has put a new mandate in place regarding international travel. Please see the attached letter from Dr. Chadzutko.



**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT ~ CATHOLIC SCHOOL SUPPORT SERVICES**

ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF BROOKLYN

310 PROSPECT PARK WEST

BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11215

718-965-7300

FAX: 718-965-7353

March 2, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We all have seen the rising concern surrounding the novel coronavirus in the news. For many weeks, the Associate Superintendent for Government Programs, Mrs. Joan McMaster of the Office of the Superintendent~Catholic School Support Services has been in communication with federal, state, and city officials monitoring the situation to ensure the health and safety of our Catholic Academies/Parish Schools and evaluating policies and procedures to keep our students and adults safe. I am reaching out to provide additional information.

You will find an attached letter and *Frequently Asked Questions Guide* from the New York City Department of Health with information about the coronavirus and general flu prevention measures. As this situation evolves and changes, the Crisis Management Team from the Office of the Superintendent~Catholic School Support Services will provide further information and guidelines for our Catholic Academies and Parish Schools within the Diocese of Brooklyn.

We encourage all families to practice good hygiene and healthy practices such as washing hands regularly, avoiding close contact with people who are sick, avoiding bringing sick children to school and getting your flu shot to lower the risk of spreading illness.

***Effective Immediately: For students and Catholic Academy/Parish School personnel returning from international travel, the following policy for the Catholic Academies and Parish Schools within the Diocese of Brooklyn is in place:***

***All students and Catholic Academy/Parish School personnel returning from international travel are required to get written medical clearance from their physician before returning to Catholic Academy/Parish School.***

***Parents must submit this written medical clearance letter signed and stamped by a licensed physician to the principal.***

Be assured we will continue to keep you updated in a timely way.

I thank you for your understanding and help in the effort to keep our Catholic Academies and Parish Schools and students safe. If you have any questions regarding this policy, please contact your Catholic Academy/Parish School Principal.

Sincerely,

*Thomas Chadzutko*

Thomas Chadzutko, Ed.D.  
Superintendent~Catholic School Support Services



NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF  
HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE  
Oxiris Barbot, MD  
Commissioner

February 26, 2020

Dear Families,

This week, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention discussed possible options for what could happen if there is local person-to-person transmission of the novel coronavirus in the United States, including recommendations for school systems to consider.

At this time, it is important to listen to facts and not respond to fear. Currently there are no confirmed cases of novel coronavirus in New York City and the risk to New Yorkers remains low.

However, transmission of the virus in other countries has raised our level of concern, and we are preparing for the possibility of person-to-person transmission in New York City. The measures that are put in place should local person-to-person transmissions begin will depend on the number of individuals affected and the general severity of illness we experience in our city. The NYC Health Department is vigilantly preparing for all possible scenarios, and we will continue to monitor and communicate about any possible impact to our school communities.

There are no plans to close schools at this time. This is an extreme measure that can be disruptive to day-to-day life, and the decision to implement will be at the direction of public health experts.

All New Yorkers should continue to practice general flu prevention measures including:

- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue or sleeve
- Wash your hands regularly
- Avoid touching your face
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- Get your flu shot – it's never too late
- Stay home if you're feeling sick. Call your doctor and let them know your symptoms and travel history.

Please read the [Frequently Asked Questions sheet](#) attached to this letter for more information, or visit [nyc.gov/health](http://nyc.gov/health) at any time for important updates.

We will continue to clearly communicate with our school communities about our ongoing efforts regarding the coronavirus.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Oxiris Barbot MD".

Oxiris Barbot, MD  
Commissioner  
New York City Department of  
Health and Mental Hygiene