



Office of the President

March 12, 2020

Dear parents and guardians,

Many thanks for your response thus far to using the taskforce@mercyhighschool.com email address. Your questions have been helpful. Today, we emailed the student body directly to update them with the link to our [COVID-19](#) web page, as well as the use of this email address for their questions and information. We appreciate your partnership in reinforcing the need to stop any jokes about COVID-19. Rumors and social media posting are unhelpful. Please talk with your daughter(s) to avoid false reporting and speculation about COVID-19, as it causes unnecessary anxiety and takes time and energy away from the important work that continues to be done by our staff.

Visiting and Screening

We continue to limit visitors on campus. Please do what you can to limit your need to enter the building, including dropping off lunches. Please conduct business with Mercy faculty and staff virtually as much as possible, unless unavoidable. We have implemented new visitor screening procedures on campus. Visitors to school should remain mindful of and be prepared to answer questions from school staff about health and recent travel.

Events:

We continue to monitor the most up-to-date information from the CDC, the Archdiocese of Baltimore, AIMS, NAIS, the IAAM, and other educational experts. As of this morning, we do not have any further event cancellations to report. We are committed to and are preparing for higher quality streaming of events, should that become necessary. No decisions have been made yet about *Little Women*, athletic events, Field Day, Prom, or Commencement. We will keep you updated as decisions about future events are made.

Self-monitoring:

If you suspect that your daughter or a member of her household has been exposed to the COVID-19 virus (whether or not the person is displaying symptoms), please inform the school immediately through taskforce@mercyhighschool.com. Please keep your daughter home from school and be in contact with your health provider immediately.

We are regularly updating our [COVID-19](#) web page with new resources and the most up-to-date information for our community. The health and safety of our community members remains our top priority. Be assured that whatever future decisions are made regarding school closure, they will be carefully made in coordination with the State of Maryland, the Archdiocese of Baltimore, and the Association of Independent Maryland and DC Schools, and of course, our Board of Trustees. Our academic team continues to prepare to maintain the continuity of learning through a robust online learning plan. On behalf of our leadership team and board, thank you for your partnership in supporting the health and safety of our community and continuing our academic instruction during this challenging time.

Best regards,

Mary Beth Lennon '85
President

Mary Ella Franz Marion '76
Dean of Students
Chair, COVID-19 Task Force