



Office of the President

March 3, 2020

Dear parents and guardians,

I am writing to you to make you aware of our focused attention on the COVID-19 virus and the information that we are receiving from the Archdiocese of Baltimore, the Association of Independent Maryland & DC Schools, and, of course, the Maryland Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The Archdiocese of Baltimore recommends that schools continue to focus on the following preventative measures as advised by the [Maryland Department of Health](#) and the [CDC](#).

Flu-like symptoms are fever, cough, and shortness of breath. In general, people can protect themselves and others against respiratory viruses by taking the following precautions:

- Wash your hands frequently with an alcohol-based hand sanitizer or soap & water for at least 20 seconds.
- Cover your mouth and nose while coughing or sneezing.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- If you are sick, stay home from work or school.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Practice good health habits.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
- Get a flu shot. While the influenza vaccine does not protect against coronavirus infection, it can help keep you healthy during the flu season.

If there are concerns that a person in the Mercy community might have been exposed to COVID-19, either through travel or by other means, we will follow the health department guidelines and reach out to the health department immediately for guidance.

The safety of our Mercy students, faculty, and staff is our primary concern. The best prevention is to avoid exposure to the virus. Student travel or school activities will be assessed and may be canceled out of an abundance of caution. We are making plans now, should school be interrupted, so that our students can continue their learning from home. As you may recall, we have a plan for online learning in the event of inclement weather that has served us well.

We are closely monitoring all COVID-19 virus information and recommendations, and we will modify our response in compliance with the directives provided by the various health authorities and experts. Please know that we will continue to communicate updates to you. Kindly be in touch with Ms. Mary Ella Marion, dean of students, at 410-433-8880, ext. 202 or at memarion@mercyhighschool.com if you have any specific concerns.

Best regards,

Mary Beth Lennon '85
President