



March 2, 2020

TO: St. Michael School & Preschool Families

**FROM: Mrs. Tara Navarro, Principal of St. Michael School
Mrs. Lisa Ciesla, Director of St. Michael Preschool
Msgr. Doug Reed, Pastor of St. Michael Church**

RE: Reminders about Healthy Habits & Coronavirus Readiness

As the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the World Health Organization work to control the spread of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) and develop treatments, our two St. Michael parish schools are also staying informed and collaborating with the appropriate groups. We are staying calm while simultaneously taking responsible steps to address potential concerns and be prepared.

In partnership with the Diocese of Raleigh Catholic Schools Office, we are monitoring information shared by the Wake County Human Services Department and their Public Health Division, under the guidance of NC Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). As we maintain regular communication with local and state health officials, we are also collaborating with St. Michael Parish leadership to review our current infection control practices and the diligent cleaning of our campus, especially given that it is flu season. This memo is to share reminders about important best practices. If we all follow current evidence-based guidance, the risk of exposure to the coronavirus and other droplet/airborne diseases will be significantly reduced.

Important Practices at St. Michael School and St. Michael Preschool:

- As recommended for any virus such as the flu, parents should keep children with fevers or respiratory symptoms home from school until symptoms are resolved. *Children should be fever-free for 24 hours before returning to school, without symptoms being masked by a pain reliever.* Our registered school nurses and office staff will work with teachers to identify sick children, contact the student's parents, and stay with children until they can be taken home. It is important that parents pick up their children as soon as possible upon receiving a call from school, which is for the best interests of the child and all staff members.

- Read the Coronavirus “What You Need to Know” poster (attached) from the NC Department of Health and Human Services, for more information and resources.
- To improve hand hygiene, remind children about the importance of thorough hand washing and using hand sanitizer. Students at St. Michael will continue to be encouraged to clean their hands after using the bathroom, before eating, and after recess. For more information and resources, such as posters, go to: www.cdc.gov/handwashing/index.html
- Remind children to avoid touching their faces - particularly eyes, nose, and mouth - with unwashed hands. It may also be helpful to remind children about the importance of respecting one another’s personal space.
- Our St. Michael custodial staff and classroom teachers are continuing to follow appropriate disinfection practices and focusing on high-touch areas, including doorknobs and desks. If additional custodial staff as well as cleaning supplies are needed, we are prepared accordingly.
- If you have any health concerns about your child, please contact your pediatrician.
- Finally, we will maintain a welcoming community to any new students or families who have been traveling internationally or out of state. Health organizations – not schools – are tasked with identifying travelers who may have been exposed to the virus. If health officials do not place travelers under quarantine, then they can return to school and to the workplace.

Additional Resources:

Federal

[Center for Disease Control](https://www.cdc.gov)(CDC)

1-800-232-4636

State

[North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services](https://www.ncdhhs.gov)

919-753-3419

NC Corona Virus Hotline number is 1-866-462-3821. Information is available in English and Spanish, which is another helpful resource for parents.

Local

[WakeGov Human Services Public Health Alerts, Advisories & Updates](#); Please refer to the Public Health Advisory and informative memo posted on February 28, 2020 for more information.

If additional information or updates become available, Administration will communicate accordingly with school families. Thank you for your continued support.