

March 11, 2020

Dear Students, Parents and Guardians,

Resurrection College Prep High School will be open for classes tomorrow, Thursday, March 12, 2020. The decision to close the school yesterday and today was made to ensure the health and safety of all members of our school community. We took advantage of the time to perform a deep cleaning of the building while we awaited further information and guidance. During this time, we have continued to be in contact with the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) and the Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH) and the family who was exposed to the Coronavirus, COVID-19. We appreciate your patience and understanding during this challenging time as we navigate the uncharted territory of COVID-19.

## What We Know

The parent of a current Resurrection student contacted the school yesterday morning to inform school staff that the student's parent had indirect contact through a work environment with an individual who has tested positive for COVID-19 and who is hospitalized. The family followed recommendations from the CDPH and CDC including medical evaluation. Members of the family were evaluated yesterday, after which it was determined they are not infected with COVID-19 and are not under quarantine. The family will continue to follow the recommendations of the CDPH and IDPH.

At this time, no one in our school community has been diagnosed with COVID-19. Though we will provide you with as many details as we can, we must maintain the privacy of this student and the student's family per the IDPH guidelines. The IDPH has advised us that "contacts of contacts" are not at risk for COVID-19 exposure. Therefore, a teacher or classmate who was in contact with this student does not need to self-quarantine.

As recommended by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), if you think you have been exposed to COVID-19 and develop a fever and symptoms of respiratory illness, such as cough or difficulty breathing, call your healthcare provider immediately.

## **Classes & Activities**

The IDPH and CDPH have affirmed for us that it is sound practice to resume classes tomorrow, Thursday, March 12, 2020. Classes will resume tomorrow as a regularly scheduled White Day. Most school events will continue as scheduled. Athletic events, including practices and games will continue as scheduled.

As a precaution, however, and following the example of other institutions, we are implementing procedures to limit the access to our building of people other than faculty, staff, and students as well as modifying any large group setting. While we understand that this will cause much disappointment, we are postponing the production of the spring play, *Game of Tiaras*, as well as the Athletic Booster <u>Trivia</u> Night, since these activities would bring large groups into our school building. Depending on scheduling and other factors, it is our hope to reschedule these activities. We are also canceling, at least for the near future, all school assemblies and liturgies.

#### **Disinfection Process**

As mentioned in our earlier email, while the students and staff are out of school building yesterday and today, the maintenance staff disinfected all the rooms in the school. The school's maintenance department has special equipment that is used for major disinfecting. When the disinfectant is sprayed with this machine, the chemical wraps around surfaces, covering hard-to-reach spaces, undersides and backsides of objects. Spraying with this machine enables our maintenance staff to reach around complex-shaped objects, undersides of chairs and desks, as well as around chair legs and table legs. Every room will be disinfected including washrooms, locker rooms, and cafeteria.

## **Enhanced Cleaning Protocols**

Our maintenance staff is committed to providing our students with a freshly sanitized environment to return to. Enhanced cleaning protocols will continue when the building reopens. Large public spaces are cleaned three times a day; classrooms are cleaned every evening. Frequently touched surfaces such as doorknobs and handrails are cleaned repeatedly throughout the school day. Please know that the wellbeing of our students is a priority to us.

#### **Travel Advisories**

Students and employees who plan to travel internationally or domestically during spring break should use caution and evaluate travel plans at this time. Resurrection College Prep is currently evaluating the international trips that are scheduled for this summer, however, no decisions have been made at this time. For guidance on travel considerations, please reference the CDC travel advisories.

# **Resurrection Policies**

In order to proactively protect our students and staff at Resurrection College Prep High School from possible exposure to all respiratory viruses and strains of influenza, students and staff members will follow our policies related to illness, particularly with any fever or flu-like symptoms. The policy is available <u>HERE</u> on the <u>Coronavirus Prevention page</u> of our website.

### **Recommended Actions to Protect Yourself and Others**

- Wash your hands regularly with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water is not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your face, especially eyes, nose and mouth.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw in the trash.
- Avoid shaking hands. Greet people by waving, bumping elbows or other alternative greetings.
- Clean and disinfect surfaces or objects. Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces at home, work or school, especially when someone is ill.
- Wipe down surfaces regularly with disinfectant wipes.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick. Stay home from work, school and errands when you are sick. You will help prevent others from catching your illness.
- Per local public health authorities, it has been recommended that students and faculty/staff stay home until they are fever-free for 48 hours.

If your student is home with flu-like symptoms, please contact the school's Attendance Office at 773.467.4618. and leave a detailed message indicating the symptoms. Parents, to report an absence, call the Attendance Office before 9:15 am on the day of the student's absence at 773.467.4618. We look forward to returning to classes and activities at Resurrection tomorrow and we will continue to provide updates as needed. Please continue to visit the <u>Resurrection website</u> for additional updates.

As always, we ask that you keep all those impacted by the virus in your prayers.

In Charity and Truth,

Sister Donna Marie Wolowicki, C.R.

Sister Donna Marie Holowicki, CR

President

Dr. Richard Piwowarski

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Principal