



March 16, 2020

Dear Mercy students, families, faculty, and staff,

You have probably heard about the new public health order that requires that each of us participate in a “shelter in place” in which everyone (except those providing essential services) remains at home in order to stem the rapid spread of Coronavirus. Grocery shopping and trips for medical care are allowed. This order applies to all residents of San Francisco, San Mateo, Marin, Alameda, Contra Costa, and Santa Clara counties, beginning at midnight tonight and extending until April 7 (at least).

What impact does this have on Mercy High School?

1. The campus is closed to everyone, including faculty and staff, as of midnight tonight. All will be working remotely from home.
2. Our distance learning program will continue according to our regular school calendar. Our students, faculty, and staff have been doing an amazing job of maintaining Mercy’s academic program. Continuing this collaborative work helps to make it possible that our students can earn full course credit for this semester.

Special thanks go to our deans, Mrs. Oliva-Gomez and Dr. Delaporte for their leadership and attention to every detail.

It is important to understand why these somewhat drastic steps are being taken .

It is clear that COVID-19 is among us and that there are two important tasks for us to take seriously. One is obviously to minimize each person’s exposure; this is best done by limiting person-to-person contact. The second task is to “flatten the curve”: as the virus affects more people at the same time, a huge burden is placed on our doctors and healthcare systems. If by our efforts, we can limit the number of initial cases, it will spread out the impact across more time and give medical professionals a less frantic need to deal with an overwhelming situation.

Needless to say, it is not clear what the future holds.

Mercy has been hard-hit this spring dealing with both COVID-19 and the school’s closure. It is hard to say what will happen from one day to the next. Clearly this is true in your families as well, and we all share worries and fear. This is a time, in addition to taking every recommended precaution, that we choose to lean on our faith and our community of Mercy. Once again, I invite all to join together in a Coronavirus Prayer, available at the link below or on Mercy’s webpage. I ask that you join me in praying for the health and well-being of our entire Mercy community.

In Mercy,

Sister Carolyn Krohn

[A Prayer for Our Times During This Coronavirus Crisis](#)
from *America* Magazine, The Jesuit Review

www.mercyhs.org

