



Dear Mercy Families,

As we return from Intersession Week and in the wake of the ever-changing news about the coronavirus (COVID-19), I feel it is important that I reassure all of you that the health and safety of our students, faculty, and staff is our highest priority at Mercy High School. We continue to work proactively to preserve the health and well-being of our entire school community.

Please partner with us by keeping any student experiencing symptoms including fever, cough, and shortness of breath home and away from school. We need to protect one another by being extra cautious about exposing others to the virus.

While we do not currently have a critical situation that would necessitate campus closure to mitigate the spread of the virus, teachers and staff are preparing for this possibility. Should the need arise, Mercy has the ability to conduct classes remotely using Canvas and other online educational tools. **Students will be trained on participating in classes on-line early this week according to the following schedule:**

- **Frosh: Monday at 2:30 (during Academic Advising)**
- **Sophomores: Wednesday at 8:00 a.m.**
- **Juniors: Wednesday at 8:30 a.m.**
- **Seniors: Wednesday at 2:30 (during Academic Advising)**

In the event that we need to close the school, we will activate our Remote Learning Plan and expect our students to remain actively engaged in daily classwork.

On campus, our custodial staff is focusing on diligent and frequent cleaning of all commonly used surfaces including doorknobs, railings, countertops, and desks. Multiple hand sanitizer stations are available on the first floor and we consistently remind one another to [practice regular preventative actions against the spread of respiratory diseases](#) and [good hand hygiene habits](#). We will continue following the recommendations as directed by the [CDC](#) and the [California Department of Public Health](#).

As we learn more about COVID-19, it is natural to experience fear related to potential threats to safety. Effective planning and preparedness are essential in a school like ours. It is also important to emphasize that a person's risk for this virus is not dependent on ethnicity, race, or culture. In the spirit of Mercy, our response should be one based on facts, supported by acts of compassion and justice while protecting ourselves and others.

We will continue to closely monitor the CDC's updates in the days and weeks ahead and are taking the actions recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the California Department of Public Health, and the SF Department of Public Health to protect the health of students and staff. Two helpful resources for adults to talk to anxious teens about the virus are an article from [The New York Times](#) and another from [ChildMind](#).

The following are also helpful resources:

- [San Francisco Department of Public Health](#) (Public Health, County)
- [California Department of Public Health](#) (CDPH, State)
- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) (CDC, National)
- [World Health Organization](#) (WHO, International)

Should our school need to close or if the situation changes quickly, we will notify parents directly via email.

Sr. Carolyn Krohn, RSM

Sister Carolyn Krohn

www.mercyhs.org



