



March 10, 2020

Dear Mercy Students and Families,

I want to give you a brief update of the status on health at Mercy High School.

First of all, I want to assure you that we are treating the situation very seriously and believe your health is of the greatest concern. We believe that it is important to be very cautious but at the same time to be wary of unfounded fears and rumors.

**As of today, March 10, there has been no incident of coronavirus among staff, faculty or students.** We continue to follow the recommendations of the San Francisco Health Department, the San Francisco Unified School District, and the Archdiocesan Office of Catholic Education. We continue rigorous cleaning, enforcing our ban on after-school activities, practicing food safety measures, and reminding one another of the recommended hygienic practices.

The schools that have closed — Riordan, Lowell, Serra, and ICA — have all had incidents of a positive test of a member of their campus communities; Mercy has had no incident whatsoever. Sacred Heart-Cathedral is closing for a few days for “proactive deep cleaning,” already a part of our ongoing response. All public schools, except Lowell, remain open. We continue to monitor the situation and appropriate recommendations on an hour-by-hour basis. I assure you that we will let you know if and when the situation changes.

**We ask that should your doctor determine a cause for concern, please notify us immediately. In the meantime, anyone with any symptoms (in particular, cough, fever, shortness of breath) should not come to campus.**

We remind you that should Mercy need to close, students, faculty and staff are prepared to continue all classes online and students will be expected to attend and participate in class via distance learning according to the regular school schedule.

In the meantime, let us join together in prayer: <sup>text</sup>

*Jesus, we remember that you traveled through towns and villages “curing every disease and illness.” Come to our aid now, in the midst of the global spread of the coronavirus, that we may experience your healing love.*

In Mercy,

Sister Carolyn, RSM

P.S. The prayer quoted above was printed in America magazine and shared by Jim McGarry. Go to [full text of prayer](#).

