



OFFICE OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION
CATHOLIC DIOCESE of JACKSON

March 13, 2020

Dear families,

Throughout spring break, our Diocesan Office of Education, as well as your local schools, have been closely monitoring the current public health situation regarding Coronavirus. As the number of cases in the United States has grown, and with the first diagnosed cases in our state earlier this week, we have decided to take the following precautions to help ensure the safety and well-being of all of our community members:

All students, parents, and employees who traveled internationally or went on a cruise during spring break, or who had an in-the-home family member who did, should refrain from coming to school for the recommended 14-day period, starting the day of their return to the U.S.

All students, parents, and employees who traveled domestically, particularly to areas of the country with a significant number of diagnosed cases of Coronavirus including places such as California, Colorado, Washington, and New York should also observe the recommended 14-day waiting period before returning to school.

Spring break for all students will be extended two additional days for students, with plans for classes to resume on Wednesday, March 18th. Your local school will let you know if this date changes.

Faculty and staff, with the exception of those who fall in the categories listed above, will return on Monday, March 16th to outline the school's action plan moving forward including how to address the needs of absent students, how to limit contact between classes and students, and overall best practices for preventing the spread of contaminants.

Moving forward, our office, as well as your local school administration, will continue to monitor the situation and be in contact with local officials and experts in your communities. Should it be determined that additional precautions or closures need to take place, your principal will send you notifications outlining the continuing plan of action.

Please be assured that there is no higher priority than the health and safety of our students, parents, teachers, and community members. We encourage you and your family to continue to implement recommendations from the CDC, WHO, the Mississippi Department of Health and local officials to help aid in the containment of the virus.

We ask for everyone's cooperation and prayers as we navigate this situation.

Sincerely,

Catherine D. Cook, Ed. S
Superintendent of Education