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February 28, 2020

Dear Families, Faculty, Staff, and Communities of Little Flower School:

You are likely aware of the concern over the Novel (New) Coronavirus (COVID-19 or 2019-nCoV) and the related stories which accompany its outbreak worldwide. To date, there have been no positive cases of coronavirus in New York State, according to the NYS Department of Health. While this is welcome news, please be assured that the school district and agency's professional healthcare staff are monitoring the data regularly and review daily updates from the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention and NYS Department of Health.

As we have in response to the flu season, the school has increased its disinfection protocol, including a heightened focus on classroom surfaces and common areas of the school. We will continue this regular disinfection process indefinitely.

The New York State Department of Health (DOH) recommends the following ways to minimize the spread of all respiratory viruses, including 2019-nCoV:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when coughing or sneezing, then throw it in the trash.
- Routinely clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
- Additional resources and information are available at: <https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/coronavirus/>

The following information regarding the coronavirus has been provided to us by the NYS Department of Health Department of Education:

What do we know?

Since this virus is very new, health authorities continue to carefully watch how this virus spreads. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is working hard to learn as much as possible about this new virus so that we can better understand how it spreads and causes illness. The CDC considers this virus to be a serious public health concern. Based on current information, the CDC recommends avoiding travel to China. Updated travel information related to 2019-nCoV can be found at: <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices>

How Does 2019 Novel (New) Coronavirus Spread?

Health experts believe the virus probably spreads from animals to humans and from person to person. It's not clear yet how easily the virus spreads from person-to-person. The 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCov) is not currently a concern for the general public and is not actively circulating among New Yorkers at this time. Therefore, there is no need to cancel school or social events, and there is no need for students or school staff to wear surgical masks at school.

What are the symptoms?

Information to date suggests that 2019-nCoV causes mild-to-moderate illness and symptoms like the flu, including fever, cough, and difficulty breathing. The district will continue to monitor the situation closely and obtain updates about the diagnosis and management of cases of coronavirus, as applicable.

Little Flower UFSD will continue to monitor the situation and respond accordingly, with the safety of our students, faculty, and staff our primary concern. In partnership with the Little Flower agency, we will work to keep our community health and safe.

Sincerely,

Dr. Harold J. Dean
Superintendent of Schools