

UPDATES AND DETERMINATIONS FOR ST. ANTHONY DE PADUA REGARDING THE CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19)

▪ *Our Pastor Fr. Kevin Shanahan, M.S.C., along with our Parish Pastoral Staff, at St. Anthony de Padua are carefully monitoring the coronavirus situation and its impact on our parish community.*

▪ *Since the virus is spread by personal contact, containment efforts stress social distancing by restricting travel, meetings and other gatherings.*

▪ *In light of this information from the CDC and with the advisement of our Archdiocese of San Antonio, we have determined the following measures:*

For all ministry groups, organizations and groups that regularly meet in our parish facilities:

- Cancel all meetings, until further notice.
- Cancel or postpone all planned events within these groups, where people would gather, until further notice.
(This would include breakfasts, classes/courses, meetings, fundraisers, etc.)

There are many ways to continue operations without face to face contact. Here are some suggestions:

- Conduct meetings by conference call, Skype, Facetime, Google Groups or other methods.
- Use a webinar service for large meetings like monthly business meetings.
- Allow member votes by email or text.
- Use email for member communications.
- Set up a call tree to contact members and ascertain their wellbeing.

▪ *For your personal health and safety, and the safety of our parish family, we ask that you comply with these determinations. We will keep you and your ministry groups updated and it is our hope and prayer that we will all be able to return to our normal day to day routines very soon.*

▪ *We will also inform you about our weekday and weekend Mass schedules as soon as we have word from our Archdiocese on their recommendations.*

We ask everyone to continue to follow the guidance of the public health authorities. As the situation evolves, Church-specific information will be updated and published on our website at www.stanthonydepadua.org, our facebook page, on local Archdiocesan websites www.archsa.org, on the website of the U.S. Council of Catholic Bishops' at www.usccb.org and on related digital media platforms.

Prayer for our protection

We ask for prayers for those affected by the Coronavirus. Placing all our trust in the Lord, and asking Our Lady and St. Anthony of Padua to intercede for us, we invite everyone to pray for our church community, our Archdiocese, our larger church, as well as our national and international leadership as we work through this historic time.

Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV)

www.sanantonio.gov/health/2019coronavirus

What is 2019 novel coronavirus?

The 2019 novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) is a new virus that causes respiratory illness in people and can spread from person-to-person. This virus was first identified during an investigation into an outbreak in Wuhan, China.

Can people in the U.S. get 2019-nCoV?

The 2019-nCoV is spreading person-to-person in China and limited spread among close contacts has been detected in some countries outside China, including the United States. At this time this virus is NOT spreading in communities in the United States. Right now, the greatest risk of infection is for people in China or people who have travel to China. Risk of infection is dependent on exposure. Close contact of people who are infected are at greater risk of exposure, for example healthcare workers and close contact of people who are infected with 2019-nCoV. Public health continues to closely monitor the situation.

Have there been cases of 2019-nCoV in San Antonio?

No. There have not been any confirmed cases in San Antonio or Texas. The first infection with 2019-nCoV in the United States was reported on January 21, 2020. The current count of cases of infection with 2019-nCoV in the United States is available on CDC's webpage: www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cases-in-us.html.

How does 2019-nCoV spread?

This virus probably originally emerged from an animal source but now seems to be spreading from person-to-person. It's important to note that person-to-person spread can happen on a continuum. Some viruses are highly contagious (like measles), while other viruses are less so. At this time, it's unclear how easily or sustainably this virus is spreading between people. Learn what is known about the spread of newly emerged coronaviruses at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/transmission.html>.

What are the symptoms of 2019-nCoV?

Patients with 2019-nCoV have reportedly had mild to severe respiratory illness with symptoms of:

- ◆ fever
- ◆ cough
- ◆ shortness of breath

Are there severe complications from this virus?

Many patients have pneumonia in both lungs.

How can I help protect myself?

The best way to prevent infection is to avoid being exposed to this virus. There are simple everyday preventive actions to help prevent the spread of respiratory viruses.

These include:

- ◆ Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- ◆ Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- ◆ Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

If you are sick, to keep from spreading respiratory illness to others, you should:

- ◆ Stay home when you are sick.
- ◆ Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- ◆ Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

What should I do if I recently traveled to China and got sick?

If you were in China within the past 14 days and feel sick with fever, cough, or difficulty breathing, you should get medical care. Call the office of your health care provider before you go and tell them about your travel and your symptoms. They will give you instructions on how to get care without exposing other people to your illness. While sick, avoid contact with people, don't go out and delay any travel to reduce the possibility of spreading illness to others.

Is there a vaccine?

There is currently no vaccine to protect against 2019-nCoV. The best way to prevent infection is to avoid being exposed to this virus and take precautions listed above.

Is there a treatment?

There is no specific antiviral treatment for 2019-nCoV. People with 2019-nCoV can seek medical care to help relieve symptoms.



Archdiocese of San Antonio
Department of Communication

March 3, 2020

Archdiocese issues new precautionary guidelines regarding coronavirus for parishes and schools

In response to the March 2 Declaration of a Public Health Emergency by the Mayor of San Antonio and a similar action taken by the Bexar County Judge, along with advisement from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention regarding the coronavirus, the Archdiocese of San Antonio is now recommending precautions in regards to the celebration of the liturgy.

Parishes are requested to temporarily distribute Holy Communion in the hand rather than on the tongue; temporarily discontinue the distribution of the Precious Blood at Mass; remove holy water from fonts at the church doors; and to avoid physical contact would be advisable. Other dioceses in the state and nationally have adopted these temporary measures. As has been stated previously, the archdiocese is closely monitoring the situation, and updates regarding the temporary suspension of these Mass practices will be provided in a timely manner. It is important to note that health and civic authorities maintain that the risk of coronavirus exposure to the public is low.

Pastors have discretion in instituting these directives in their parishes, in light of local needs and protocols. Archbishop Gustavo García-Siller, MSpS, requests everyone pray for the good health of all people in the world and our communities. “Peace I leave with you, my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid,” John 14:27.

We also strongly encourage all to follow the simple recommendations from the CDC regarding:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after blowing your nose, coughing, sneezing, going to the bathroom, and before eating or preparing food.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.

For Catholic schools, in addition to the steps listed above, cleaning classroom tables and surfaces to sanitize frequently is strongly emphasized. Further discussions regarding future plans are ongoing.

For more information, see <https://www.sanantonio.gov/Health/News/Alerts/CoronaVirus>