



Dear SMCS Families,

We learned in yesterday's news that [Governor Tony Evers](#) declared a public health emergency in response to new cases of COVID-19, just after the [World Health Organization](#) (WHO) announced that COVID-19 is officially a pandemic. Wisconsin health officials are not recommending closing schools at this time. Officials are balancing health risks against the potential impacts on the community.

We have formed a pandemic steering committee to address this rapidly evolving situation. Our steering committee will continue to meet regularly to monitor updates, and we will communicate relevant information in a timely fashion.

At this time, St. Mary Catholic Schools will remain open. This direction could change pending more information and direction from government agencies; therefore, students and staff are advised to bring home all essential work/belongings/devices daily. We will continue to examine the feasibility of online learning in the event of a closure.

It has also been determined:

- Big Fish (high school production) - no changes in schedule for this weekend
- Self-regulation workshop (March 17) - as scheduled
- STEM Saturday (March 21) - cancelled
- Grade 5 BizTown field trip - cancelled
- Grade 4 WI State Capitol field trip - cancelled
- The Lion King (middle school musical) - suspended ticket sales until further notice
- The fitness center is closed with the exception of in-season HS athletics and for instructional purposes
- As of now, HS spring sports will start on their scheduled start dates. Some spring sport competitions scheduled for the next few weeks have already been cancelled. Check the [Big East website](#) for up-to-date schedules. We will follow the direction of the [WIAA](#) in regard to spring sports.

We are working closely with all of our custodial crews and will continue to prioritize the daily disinfecting of touch points. You can help by:

- Avoiding touching eyes, nose and mouth
- Washing your hands frequently with soap
- Maintaining social distancing
- Keeping children home who may be feeling sick
- Practicing respiratory hygiene (covering your mouth and nose with your bent elbow or tissue when you cough or sneeze; disposing of the used tissue immediately and then washing hands)

You can assist us by remaining vigilant but sensible in your approach to dealing with this pandemic. Below are factual and reliable sources of information:

- CDC <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/index.html>
- DHS <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/outbreaks/index.htm>
- DPI <https://dpi.wi.gov/sspw/2019-novel-coronavirus>

We appreciate your support and cooperation, and thank you for your understanding as we work through this challenging time.

Helen

Helen Englebert
SMCS President

Pat

Patrick D. Batey
SMCS Superintendent