

Good evening TFS families,

I hope your weekend is going well, and sorry to interrupt your holiday.

I share with you the information that one of our staff members has tested positive for COVID-19. We would not typically identify the person who tested positive out of privacy concerns and out of consideration of their medical situation. However, because I am writing the email to you and I am the one who tested positive, I am choosing to let you know my status. I felt ill on Wednesday and was not at work on Thursday or Friday as per the school's COVID Workflow protocols, shared again [here](#). Even though I am not a teacher and don't work in the classrooms, I have been around students and staff, although not within 6 feet for 15 minutes as per CDC guidelines and always masked. If you have concerns about exposure at school because of this positive test, please consult your medical professional.

Today I have been in contact with Msgr. Clay, Joanne Sullivan and Trish Adamkowski, the admin team, the communication team from the parish, and our TFS COVID 19 Taskforce. We discussed all the concerns, the status of the school, and exposure risks for staff and students. Because of our protocols and the precautions around masking and social distancing we follow at the school, we don't have strong concerns about serious or widespread exposures. We have reached out to the health department, but don't expect to hear back from them until Tuesday given the holiday weekend.

To assure that we are able to consult with the health department, and to allow our parents enough time to plan accordingly, we are announcing today that **we will remain closed on Tuesday, September 8th**. We will also follow up with an Alert email and text to be sure we give everyone time to plan. This will NOT be a remote learning day, but a day off similar to a "snow day". This allows us to have time to answer any questions or concerns from our faculty or families, and to give another day for thorough cleaning of our facilities; we want everyone to feel safe in returning to campus. I will reiterate, we have solid protocols in place and are confident in those protocols, as well as having the firm sureness that there are not any faculty, staff or students who were put at undue risk for exposure. We do realize that some of you may want even more time before sending your children to campus, and, if you choose to keep them home further this week, we have available the asynchronous learning opportunities of the recorded lessons available from our faculty. Please ask your child's teachers if you have any specific questions about these recorded lessons.

The COVID task force feels confident in the protocols we have in place. We are remaining closed out of an abundance of caution to allow time to consult with the health department. However, if you have any concerns, you should monitor your health, and, if you have symptoms, please consult with your health care provider and get tested. Here is a link to testing sites: <https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/about-covid-19/testing/find-my-testing-place/pop-testing-sites>

Thanks for your understanding and your faith in the school and parish administration.

Sincerely,

Michael Watson
Principal at The Franciscan School