

3/12/2020 新冠狀病毒(COVID-19) – 休士頓教區最新防範措施之指示

昨天，休士頓市和哈裡斯縣發布了一項社區緊急衛生聲明，由於德州蒙哥馬利縣出現了一起，找不到源頭的，準陽性的新冠狀病毒病例，該病例是此病毒在“社區傳染”之先兆。此外，休士頓市政府也已公告，決定重新安排或取消，在三月底前所有由市政府贊助的活動，以預防病毒傳播。

因應這些新的發展，教區決定配合執行以下預防措施：

禮儀慶典

值此公共健康危機之際，教友們更有需要維持鎮定，所以總教區建議堂區，繼續為所有希望參加彌撒的人，維持常規彌撒時間表。因新冠狀病毒而對參加主日彌撒感到不安的教友，可免參加之義務。此外，如有教友因病、或高齡、或患有慢性疾病、或免疫系統衰弱之高危群，他們應該要留在家裡。

我們正在搜集，在互聯網上直播彌撒的堂區。如果您的堂區有此服務，請將信息發給 Jonah Dycus

(jdycus@archgh.org 或 713-652-8270)，以便在教區的網站上，公佈您的堂區和彌撒時間，給那些無法到堂區參加主日彌撒的教友一個應急之便。

麵餅和酒，若在彌撒開始之前，放置在教堂的入口處，請確實將之覆蓋好。各個堂區也可以自行決定，將餅和酒放在靠近祭台之處。

我們也建議接待人員和數點捐獻的服務員，使用乳膠手套。內門可以保持打開，或由接待人員負責開關，以減低參禮者自行開門的機會。

其他計劃的聚會和活動

關於其他即將舉行的聚會和活動，我們建議堂區延遲或取消，4月30日之前的活動，特別是在堂區外，所舉行的靜修和其他活動。在堂區內進行的任何聚會或活動，應由司鐸協同堂區領袖磋商後，作出審慎的決定，看是否應重新安排或取消之。要考慮的因素包括預期出席之人數，和該族群中的任何風險因素；疾病防治中心建議不要舉辦超過250個人參與的聚會或大型活動。

我們也希望堂區取消，在主日彌撒之後，喝咖啡和吃甜甜圈的活動；另外，四旬守齋吃炸魚的活動也可取消；但是，堂區可自行決定是否恰當。

宗教教育與聖事陶成

關於信仰陶成，請洽詢福傳和教理講授服務處

(OCE 負責人 Julie Blevins, jblevins@archgh.org 或 713-741-8723)，以取得有關暫停信仰陶成的指示（例如提供父母在家中進行宗教教育，讓他們雖不在堂區，仍能持續有信仰陶成。）。此外，OEC的

工作人員可以提供建議，解決有關聖事陶成之家長會談之問題，或者提供其他之替代方案。

天主教學校

天主教學校的總負責人和教區負責學校之工作人員(CSO)，一直與各學校的校長保持協商，以確保為我們的學校團體做出最好的決定。如果我們的天主教學校需要停課，我們已經給各學校發送資源以制定計劃，使之能通過互聯網，以電子教學方式繼續教學，或者提供學生長達兩周的作業，以便他們在家完成。CSO與校長直接就網上學習、停課等問題進行溝通。

德州醫學中心醫院牧靈探訪

天主教醫院牧靈團的建議是，如果您在德州醫學中心有堂區教友需要牧靈或聖事之照顧，請致電天主教醫院牧靈團辦公室 713-747-8445，並將此訊息轉告家人。在此新冠狀病毒時期，TMC醫院制定了許多新的程序和政策，來管制進出園區的人。這些TMC政策在必要時會隨時變更。此時，TMC中的所有彌撒都已取消，直到另行通知。

這些都是持續不斷在發展中的局勢。我們會繼續注意事態之發展，並盡快傳達任何新建議或指示。

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update - Additional Precautionary Measures MARCH 12, 2020 Office of Communications

Yesterday, the City of Houston and Harris County issued an emergency health declaration for our local community as a result of the developing story of the new presumptively positive case of Coronavirus characterized as “community spread” in Montgomery County, Texas. In addition, the City of Houston informed the public of their decision to either reschedule or cancel all City co-sponsored and City permitted events for the remainder of the month of March as a precaution to prevent the spread of the virus.

As a result of these developments, we are implementing the following measures:

Liturgical Celebrations

At this time when the faithful need to maintain some degree of normalcy in the midst of the current health crisis, the Archdiocese is recommending that each parish continue to maintain their regular Mass schedules for all those who wish to participate. Any parishioners who are uncomfortable about attending Sunday Mass due to the coronavirus are excused from the obligation to attend. In addition, if a parishioner is in the higher risk category due to current illness, age, or suffering from a chronic health condition or

compromised immune system, they are also asked to remain at home.

We are also compiling a list of parishes that currently live stream Sunday Masses over the internet. If your parish has this capability, please forward this information to Jonah Dycus (jdycus@archgh.org or 713-652-8270) so the name of your Parish and the Mass time(s) may be identified on our website as an alternative option for those who are unable to attend Sunday Mass in person.

Please ensure that the Offertory gifts of bread and wine are sufficiently covered and protected if they are placed at the entrance to the nave before the start of Mass. Individual parishes also have the discretion to determine whether to keep the bread and wine covered in a sacristy until the Offertory.

As a precaution, we are also recommending the use of latex gloves for ushers and money counters. To the extent that interior doors may be left propped open or are held open by ushers, this will minimize the need for individual Mass attendees to use their hands to open doors.

Other Planned Gatherings & Events

With regard to other upcoming gatherings and events, we are encouraging parishes to delay or cancel retreats and other events scheduled to occur off campus, particularly overnight activities until after April 30, 2020. Any gatherings or planned activities taking place on the premises of the parish should be reviewed by the Pastors in consultation with parish leadership, and make a prudential judgment in determining whether they should be rescheduled or canceled. Some factors to be considered include the expected number of attendees and any risk factors within that population, keeping in mind the CDC is recommending controlling large gatherings of 250 or more.

We are also asking that you give serious consideration to suspending coffee and donuts following Sunday Masses, as well as Lenten Fish Fry events; however, you have the discretion to determine whether this is an appropriate decision for your individual parish.

Religious Education & Sacramental Preparation

We ask you to please consult with the Office of Evangelization and Catechesis (Julie Blevins, jblevins@archgh.org or 713-741-8723) for guidance regarding suspending religious education instruction (possibly providing a home based method for parents to continue instruction away from the parish). In addition, the OEC staff is available to assist in addressing any questions regarding parent meetings for sacramental preparation and identifying alternatives to group gatherings.

Catholic Schools

The Superintendent of Catholic Schools and the staff of the Catholic School Office have been working diligently, in consultation with Principals in the Archdiocese, to ensure that the best decisions are being made for our school communities. In the event our Catholic schools need to suspend operations, schools have been sent resources to set up plans for instruction to continue electronically via the Internet, or they have been asked to create work assignments for up to two weeks for students to complete at home. The CSO is communicating directly with Principals regarding e-learning, closure concerns, etc.

Texas Medical Center Hospital Visits

It is the recommendation of the Catholic Chaplain Corps that if you have a parishioner in the Texas Medical Center that is in need of pastoral/sacramental care, please call the Catholic Chaplain Corps office 713-747-8445 and refer the family. The TMC hospitals have many new procedures and policies in place restricting access to patients on their campuses during this Coronavirus period. These TMC policies are changing rapidly as deemed necessary. All Masses in the TMC have been cancelled at this time until further notice.

This remains a dynamic and evolving situation. We will continue to monitor developments and will communicate any new recommendations or updates as soon as possible.