



ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. LOUIS

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Dear Colleagues in Catholic Education,

Thank you for your continued diligence in educating our students and tending to our communities throughout these challenging days. Following Archbishop Carlson's letter regarding the extension of the closure of all archdiocesan schools through Wednesday, April 22, we are providing further guidance with you for distance-learning preparations and building operations.

According to the stay-at-home orders from local St. Louis government officials, employees and individuals are permitted to leave home for basic needs and essential operations, which include **facilitating distance learning** and collecting supplies necessary to work from home. Given these orders, our extended school closure period and the return from spring break for many this week, please review the following guidelines:

- Pending continuing updates and guidance from local and state government and health officials, we have preliminary plans to allow teachers to return on Thursday, April 23, and students to return on Monday, April 27. Please extend your distance-learning plans for continuation through Friday, April 24.
- We would like to reiterate that educational institutions, in their operations to facilitate distance learning during this time, are considered essential by both the city and county orders. Therefore, **employees and individuals are permitted to leave home throughout the duration of these orders for the purpose of completing tasks necessary to provide quality distance-learning curriculum to students.** As such, please continue working to finalize and tweak all distance-learning processes with faculty members as needed. **All in-person group work should be completed as efficiently as possible and follow social distancing guidelines (i.e. no more than 10 people gathered; remain 6 feet away from your nearest neighbor; and more at [cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov)) for the safety and health of all those in our communities.**
- At the elementary-school level, principals should continue to coordinate with pastors to maintain only essential operations to meet the needs of the parish and school community. Where possible, **all archdiocesan school personnel should work from home and should enter school buildings only to retrieve essential items or complete essential tasks.**

We understand that adjusting to the ever-changing directives and guidelines related to COVID-19 can be challenging, frustrating and exhausting. We would like to reiterate our gratitude for your cooperation and support as we take seriously our contribution to mitigating the current health crisis together. We will continue to share additional updates as further developments occur.

As always, please call us with questions or for assistance as needed.

Sincerely,



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