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OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 2, 2020

TO: All Clergy, Religious, Principals, Diocesan Staff and Religious Education Directors

FROM: Bishop Oscar A. Solis

WHAT: Bishop's Follow-Up on Diocesan Memorandum
Coronavirus Information

Regarding the novel coronavirus, we continue to closely monitor the situation with the **U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention** and **Utah Health Services**, and await clear directives and warning from these government entities. To date, no specific directives have been issued for our region. For updated information, you may access <https://health.utah.gov/coronavirus>

A **Diocesan Memorandum** was issued last Friday to all the Priests and Principals about cautionary measures and guidelines to take should the CDC and/or Utah Health Services provide us clear directives to implement precautions. Diocesan guidelines have been issued to the clergy and principals for their study, and must be ready to be implemented as soon as we receive **official directive from the government.**

Meanwhile, pastors can provide their congregation and ministers in the Church some **common-sense instructions** during this time:

1. Always wash your hands. This applies especially to those ministers serving in the Church during Mass and other liturgical celebrations.
2. Cover your mouth when sneezing.
3. Avoid touching or physical contact with someone who is sick, has a cold or runny nose.
4. If you are not feeling well or are sick, stay home and avoid being in public.
5. Consult your physician when needed.

The **diocesan norm or practice with options of distributing Communion** so the communicant can receive by the tongue or in hand remains, as does the offering of Holy Communion under both species.

However, if **pastors find it prudent or helpful, the common-sense instructions may be announced before Mass.**

Our Diocese stance calls for **prudence, caution and preparation.** We do want to be ready if precautions must be taken, but we also wish to be careful **not to create an environment of panic** in our community.

Thank you for your kind attention.