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Dear St. Francis community,

This email is to provide you with an update on the progress we have made in preparing for the potential spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19). While there are currently a small number of confirmed cases in Iowa, we are working to address every possible scenario in an effort to ensure the safety of all on our campus.

These actions include updating our emergency plan and creating a protocol to be implemented in the event that our campus closes for an extended period of time. As of this week, our facility has undergone a deep clean after working hours using healthcare grade products. This will be done each week until the risk level has subsided.

We also are evaluating our attendance policies and monitoring our rates of absenteeism which continue to be consistent with previous years. If we surpass the threshold of normal illness rates, we will work with local health officials to determine the best plan of action. To help with this effort, we ask that you please indicate if the reason is due to illness when reporting an absence. Please be reminded that anyone with a fever (100.0 or higher) must remain home until they have been fever and symptom free for a full 24 hours without the use of medications (Tylenol, Ibuprofen).

We are relying on health experts to provide us with guidance and will adapt our approach as necessary. In the meantime, we encourage everyone to stay home when they are sick and to continue to practice everyday preventative actions to stop the spread of germs.

Rest assured that we are taking all necessary steps to gather information and follow guidelines set forth by health officials. We will continue to provide updates to ensure everyone receives timely and accurate information.

Thank you for your continued support.

Fr. Ray McHenry
St. Francis of Assisi