



H.O.P.E.

Guidelines for Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Catholic School - August 2022

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Catholic School exists to provide a “holistic Catholic Christian environment that serves the soul, mind and body of each child.” Having students present on campus for “in-person” learning preserves not only academic excellence, but more importantly allows community members to be in fellowship with one another fostering faith formation. Throughout the Pandemic, the School has implemented strategies that prioritize the health and safety of the community allowing our students to be “in-person” for schooling even during times of “high/substantial” transition of the virus. While no single action, or set of actions, will completely eliminate the risk of illness, the School will continue to strive to create the healthiest environment possible.

H - Health & Wellness of the Community

1. At Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Catholic school, students and their families, administration, teachers, and staff, as well as those visiting our campus are seen as the “community”.
2. Recognizing that students grow, develop and succeed academically when they are healthy and consistently attend school, the School environment will be one that promotes health.
3. Public health has as its focus the health and wellness of a group of people rather than an individual. Those practices identified by healthcare professionals with expertise in public/community health as being “best practices” and based on what is reasonable, practical, and feasible for our community, will be implemented with the goal of maintaining a healthy school environment.

O - Observation

1. The School Nurse is the designated point of contact for Our Lady of Mt. Carmel School and can be reached at (480) 967-5567 ext. 2
2. The School Nurse will be responsible for daily tracking of attendance and monitoring for illness patterns.
3. Screening of staff, students, visitors and others coming to the school campus may be instituted in accordance with current public health recommendations and based upon the prevalence of illness within the school community.

P - Prevention Strategies & Plans for Managing Illness

1. Prevention Strategies

- a. Practices that have been identified as being vitally important in controlling the spread of illness in general and respiratory illness in particular are: **Hand and respiratory hygiene and limiting contact with those who are sick.**
 - More frequent and deliberate washing of hands among students, staff and visitors will continue to be encouraged.
 - Good respiratory hygiene includes the covering of coughs and sneezes with a tissue and immediately washing hands after blowing the nose, coughing, or sneezing.
 - Masks are optional outside of compliance with recommended isolation/quarantine guidelines.
- b. Upgrades to the HVAC systems in 2020 included needlepoint bipolar ionization (NPBI), new filters, and the sanitization and treatment of all coils. High efficiency filter boxes (Corsi-Rosenthal or manufactured) are available for all classrooms.
- c. Routine cleaning of classrooms, restrooms, common areas will continue, using EPA approved products, throughout the school year. Classrooms, restrooms and common areas will be disinfected weekly.

2. Plans for Managing Illness

- a. Any teacher, staff member or student who becomes ill at school with any symptom associated with an infectious illness and that is not known to be part of a chronic condition (i.e. asthma, allergies) will be separated from other staff/children and excluded from the school as soon as a parent, a guardian, or designated person can pick them up.
- b. Parents/guardians are expected to pick up an ill child within 30 - 45 minutes of notification.
- c. Care of ill students and staff will be guided by *Guidelines for Infection Surveillance and Control During 2020 Pandemic (COVID) for Healthcare Staff/Care of Students and Staff that Become Ill at School or Arrive Sick* ([Guidelines for Healthcare Staff](#))
- d. Rapid (“at-home”) COVID test kits will be available to families based upon supply. A ‘negative’ at-home test will be accepted as verification that a person is not sick with COVID.

3. Plans for Managing Illness (continued)

- e. Local public health entities (Maricopa County Department of Public Health) are tasked with the investigation of infectious/communicable disease to control their spread in the community. Mandatory reporting of individual COVID cases is no longer mandated. In accordance, except in the case of an outbreak, the School will not provide community notification of individual positive cases. The school will provide notification to individual classrooms if there are 2 active cases within the classroom.
- f. The School will continue to follow guidelines established by Maricopa County Department of Public Health for Isolation/Quarantine ([Home Isolation Guidance](#)) ([Quarantine Guidance](#)).

E. Expectations

How we respond in the face of challenges can define 'who' we are as a community. Aligning with the Schoolwide Learning Expectations the following are expected of community members:

1. Accountable

- a. Parents should continue to do a Daily Screening for students. ([Daily Screening Tool](#))
- b. Anyone displaying signs of illness should stay home.
- c. Families/staff should self-report to the School Nurse if they, or their student, have symptoms of COVID-19, a positive test for COVID-19.
- d. Community members are expected to follow most current guidelines for isolation/quarantine.

2. Respectful

- a. The confidentiality and privacy of all community members will be respected.
- b. Community members are expected to treat one another respectfully when communicating.

3. Merciful

- a. All members of the community are expected to treat one another in a manner that is merciful, especially those who are sick or suffering.
- b. The School will make every effort to assist students who are in isolation/quarantine in completing school work.

4. Spiritual

- a. We will continue to pray for the sick and suffering of our community.