



## Guidelines for Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Preschool Opening August 2020

### INTRODUCTION

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Catholic School/Preschool exists to provide a “holistic Catholic Christian environment that serves the soul, mind and body of each child.” It is understood that all aspects of the child’s being must be attended to as “health” is more than simply the absence of disease. The emergence of SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19), the resulting pandemic, public health response and closure of our school have presented unique challenges for the upcoming school year. In the absence of medications to treat COVID-19, or a vaccine to protect against it, the strategies used to limit the spread will be a combination of recommended public health measures and modifications in our daily routines. It is important to note that no single action, or set of actions, will completely eliminate the risk of illness, but implementation of several coordinated interventions will allow Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Preschool to return to the “vibrant community of prayer, love and learning” (Bishop Olmstead, video message 06/10/20) it has always been while safeguarding the health and well-being of our students, staff and families.

We share a Home and School bond. We ask that you do your part at home to keep your family healthy as we will do our part as a faculty to keep ourselves healthy, especially the several weeks leading up to school. Be cognizant of where you are going and avoid large crowds and gathering. Our preschool is a small loving community and we are excited to open August 17, 2020.

### ACTION PLAN

1. Those practices identified by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and public health officials as being “best practices” for limiting the spread of illness, and based on what is reasonable, practical, and feasible for our community, will be implemented in a “phased in” approach.
2. Three practices have been identified as being vitally important in infection control: **Hand-washing, physical distancing, and limiting contact with those who are sick.** These three actions will be the basis of our plan.
3. Enhanced cleaning and disinfection of classrooms, restrooms, common areas and high-touch surfaces, using EPA approved products will be implemented and continue as indicated throughout the school year. This will be done throughout the day and nightly.

4. There will be an increased emphasis on hand hygiene and handwashing throughout the school year. Time and supplies will be allotted to facilitate more frequent and deliberate washing of hands among students, staff and visitors.
5. Upgrades to the HVAC systems include needlepoint bipolar ionization (NPBI), which have had up to a 99.4% rate of reduction for COVID-19. Additionally, new filters have been installed, and all coils have been sanitized and treated.

## **ILLNESS SURVEILLANCE**

1. Home is the first point of screening for illness. All members of the OLMC school community are expected to monitor for signs of illness and STAY HOME if they are sick.
  - a. **Staff and students showing signs of illness must STAY HOME.**
2. This would include checking for fever (temperature greater than 99.9°) and/or symptoms like cough, congestion, runny nose, sore throat, diarrhea, vomiting, or other indications of illness, prior to coming to school.
3. It is understood that when a parent, or designated caretaker, brings a child to school, they are assuring the child is well and fit for school.
4. A parent/caregiver who is not able to screen their child prior to bringing to school, may request the School Nurse perform the assessment. Students needing to be screened are to be brought to a designated area for screening. A parent/caregiver will need to wait with the student until the student is cleared.
5. According to the CDC, children may be less likely to have a fever and may be less likely to have a fever as an initial symptom, thus the absence of fever is not a reliable indicator.
6. Teachers and staff will be screened each morning for symptoms of illness in accordance with established protocols.
7. Daily “rounds” will be done by the School Nurse.
8. Increased surveillance measures will be enacted when warranted based on the monitoring of community Health Indicators.

## MANAGEMENT OF ILLNESS

1. Families/staff should self-report to the Preschool Director if they or their student have symptoms of COVID-19, a positive test for COVID-19, or through contact tracing, were exposed to someone with COVID-19 in the last 14 days.
  - a. The Preschool Director is the designated point of contact for Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Preschool at (480) 966-1753. If the Preschool Director needs further medical assistance, the School Nurse will ask to assist and can be reached at (480) 967-5567, ext.1.
  - b. Please note if a parent is diagnosed with COVID-19 their child/children will need to quarantine for 14 days from the time the person with COVID begins their home isolation (Date person with COVID-19 began home isolation + 14 days=end of quarantine).
  - c. If a student or staff member tests positive, we will notify the school community and follow the Maricopa County of Health Department's most current procedures.
2. In accordance with state and local laws and regulations, the School Nurse and Preschool Administration will notify school families if there is an exposure at school while maintaining confidentiality.
3. The School Nurse will notify local health officials of any case of COVID-19 while maintaining confidentiality in accordance with state and local laws and regulations.
4. Care of ill students and staff will be guided by **Guidelines for Infection Surveillance and Control During 2020 Pandemic (COVID) for Healthcare Staff**.
5. Consideration for return to school/work will be in accordance with Maricopa County Department of Public Health Guidelines:  
<https://www.maricopa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/58863/Home-Isolation-Guidelines>
6. To control the spread of illness, during times of increased illness in the OLMC school community, Phase 1 restrictions may be reinstated.

## WEARING OF MASKS

1. Parents may choose to have their student (any age) wear a solid color face covering. Children under 6 are not required to wear masks per MCND guidelines.
2. If a parent chooses this, the parent must appropriately prepare their child wearing the mask for extended periods of time. Put the mask on at 8:15am when school begins, remove it for a 20 minute lunch and then wear the mask for 5 days. All parents should follow CDC guidelines:  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings>.

## PRESCHOOL REOPENING PHASES GUIDELINES

### Phase 1 - Specific Actions (August 17, 2020)

- **Arrival:** Preschool parents may accompany children to areas outside of classrooms, each morning. The children will enter the campus through assigned gates. Parents must wear a mask to be allowed onto campus. Adults should practice/model recommended physical distancing while waiting with children. Parents may not enter the classrooms. **Parents will leave the campus immediately after the child enters the classroom on the East side behind McCready by the field.** A map explaining the drop off process and a video will be sent home prior to the commencement of school.
  - Early morning drop off care will be held in Preschool Room 1 to allow students more space to spread out.
- **Handwashing:** Students will be required to wash hands upon arrival to their classroom and periodically and throughout the day.
- **“Cohorting”:** Each classroom will be treated as a “homeroom”. Students will stay with classmates from their homeroom, as much as possible. There will be no mixing of classes (i.e. no “buddies”).

- **Recess:** Outdoor recess will continue. For morning recesses, classrooms will be assigned to a designated time for outdoor activities. Playground equipment and structure will be sanitized daily.
- **Water Bottles:** Each student should have his/her own water bottle. Bottles will be refilled by the teacher.
- **Snacks:** Snacks will be served individually, no “family style dining”. Teachers will continue to use gloves while serving snacks to their students.
- **Lunch:** The students will continue to eat their lunch in their classrooms. Hot lunch will continue. Students will be served individually.
- **Dismissal:** A new dismissal process will also occur, which will include a staggered dismissal process. More information will come pertaining to this process.
  - Students attending after school childcare will go directly to their assigned classroom.
- **Resting:** Students who stay for extended care will rest on their assigned mats. Teachers will continue to clean all used mats daily. Students will be placed head to foot apart from each other. Parents will provide a fitted sheet and small pillow. The preschool will provide a large bag to store the students’ belongings. The students’ belongings will be sent home weekly for washing.
- **Mass:** Not at this time.
- **Field Trips:** No off-campus field trips.
- **Volunteers/Visitors:** No volunteers/visitors permitted in classrooms at this time.

## **Phase 2 - Relaxing of Some Restrictions**

- **Lifting of Restrictions:** The lifting of restrictions in Phase 1 will be based on data from primary Health Indicators and in accordance with public health recommendations.

- **“Cohorts”:** Expanding the interaction of cohorts (“homerooms”) while continuing to maintain increased handwashing, physical distancing and separation from those who are sick will be the focus.
  - Students will be able to go to the church for Adoration and assigned Masses only.
- **Volunteers/Visitors:** Volunteers and visitors will be allowed. All volunteers will need to have completed their Safe Environment Training and will be screened for illness when arriving on campus. Volunteers may not go to classrooms without approval.
- **Mass:** Families attending Mass may not sit with their child’s class; the student may sit with his/her family in a separate pew. Families must follow the current guidelines for participation in the Mass.

### **Phase 3 - Lifting of all restrictions**

- **Activities:** Community building activities will resume during this phase.