

M.E.R.C.Y. Plan - Addendum to *Smart, Healthy & Holy* - March 2022

From the outset of the pandemic, OLMC has prioritized the safety of our students, staff and community. The mitigation measures which were enacted to reduce school transmission of the SARS-CoV 2 virus have contributed to the success OLMC has had in remaining operational throughout the past two years. At the time of school opening in August 2021, the Delta variant was emerging and the impact it would have on our community was unknown. To meet that challenge, the original *Smart, Healthy & Holy* plan was updated and, as stated, those guidelines were “intended for the opening of school on August 10, 2021 and will be amended in accordance with public health guidance.”

In Maricopa County, COVID cases and hospitalizations have decreased substantially after the recent surge related to the Omicron variant. At OLMC, we have also seen a decrease in COVID cases following a dramatic peak the second week of January 2022.

Based upon the current situation, the following changes will be made to our *Smart, Healthy & Holy Plan* effective March 14, 2022:

1. M - Masks/Metrics

a. Masks

- Mask wearing will be at the discretion of the parent. Parents should discuss with their child/children expectations for their wearing of masks when at school. Parents who need support in this endeavor should contact the Nurse’s Office. Mrs. David will notify teachers regarding individual requests (i.e. Medical Awareness).
- Teachers may direct students to wear a mask for specific activities in accordance with industry standards (i.e. science/laboratory) or OSHA requirements for personal protective equipment.
- **Masking guidelines that conform to Maricopa County Department of Public Health Guidelines for Isolation/Quarantine will continue to be followed and all community members will be expected to follow these guidelines during completion of isolation or quarantine.**
- Masks are optional for adults visiting campus unless they are in isolation/quarantine. Within the isolation/quarantine period, visiting adults are expected to wear a mask in accordance with most current public health guidelines for isolation and quarantine. (5 days at home followed by 5 days of wearing a well-fitting mask when in public).
- OLMC mask policy has NO bearing on the policies of municipalities, outside venues, other schools, or transportation on buses.

b. Metrics

- Continued monitoring of metrics for community/school based transmission as identified under **Monitoring of Health Indicators** (*Smart, Healthy & Holy*)

2. E - Environment

- School ventilation systems were upgraded in July 2020 in preparation for opening and according to EPA recommendations.

2. E - Environment (continued)

- Doors will be open (weather permitting) and fans utilized to promote adequate cross ventilation.
- Corsi-Rosenthal boxes are being built and will be utilized in the S.T.E.M. room, Fine Arts room, the Library, and classrooms with greater than 22 students. The boxes will also be used in hallways. (See Exhibit A)
- Spacing between desks will remain at 3 - 4 feet.
- Schoolwide disinfection will be done each Monday.

3. R - Requirements for Isolation/Quarantine

- We will continue to follow guidelines established by Maricopa County Department of Public Health for Isolation/Quarantine (aligned with CDC)
- “Test-to-Stay” procedure will be implemented for school based contact. (Serial testing with parent consent based upon test availability.)
- Mandated reporting of positive cases to Maricopa County Department of Public Health and Catholic Schools Office will continue.

4. C - Concern for Others/Communication

a. Concern for Others

- Parents should continue to do a Daily Screening for students.
- Anyone displaying signs of illness should stay home.
- Parents are expected to notify the school nurse if their student or someone in their home tests positive for COVID.

b. Communication

- Updates will be posted in the weekly newsletter (*Falcon Flyer*).

5. Y- Yearly Activities

- It is anticipated that all regular/annual school activities will take place without restrictions.