



Our Lady of Mount Carmel School

Dear Families,

First, let me thank you for your support of our efforts here at OLMC to help keep students healthy. I know that there continues to be a lot of uncertainty surrounding this situation. Previous updates regarding this evolving situation can be found at <https://www.olmcri.org/covid-19-information>.

Earlier today, I participated in the weekly Rhode Island Department of Health and the Department of Education. Based on their guidance, here are answers to some questions that families have been asking.

-Will we know if there is a school closing?

The decision to close school due to Covid-19 is only made with input from RI DOH. RI DOH recognizes that it is not a decision that would be made lightly as it greatly impacts families who would now have children staying at home. Should the decision to close school need to be made, we would provide as much advance notice as possible. Again, that decision is only made with consultation from the Department of Health and it is made on a case by case basis.

-Why are so many colleges closing?

Many universities and colleges are closing because of concern related to dorm life- close quarters, possible lack of transportation to doctors, easily overwhelmed health office, etc. These concerns do not apply to our PreK-8th grade setting. Because of this, the closure of K-12 schools is not recommended.

-What about families that are traveling, especially with April Vacation coming up?

Families are urged to follow the recommendations from RI DOH regarding travel. At this time, OLMC must follow the guidance from RI DOH related to families returning from travel. At this time, there are no mandatory quarantines required for individuals that travel within the United States.

-How will OLMC support learning should school be closed?

Teachers are creating plans that families will be able to use at home that are matched to the ages and needs of our children. More specific directions will be given should these plans be needed.

-What can we do to stay healthy?

The advice given to remain healthy is still the same (and what we still practice here): stay home if you are feeling unwell, especially if you have a fever, wash your hands regularly, avoid touching your face, and limit close contact with others.

-How can I find out more information if I have other questions?

Questions specific to OLMC should go to Ms. Walters. For health-related questions, please call the Rhode Island COVID-19 hotline at 401-222-8022, Monday through Friday, from 8:30am to

Our Lady of Mount Carmel School, a Catholic institution, is devoted to the development of the whole student. We integrate spiritual, intellectual, social, emotional, and physical growth with academic excellence. We encourage our students to serve God and others as part of a strong, socially responsible, Catholic community. We strive to provide our students with example and opportunity in order to help them become intentional Disciples of Christ.

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4:30pm or 211 after hours. You can also visit health.ri.gov/covid or write to RIDOH.COVID19Questions@health.ri.gov.

Again, thank you for your help, especially in keeping an eye on how your children are feeling and communicating that information with us. If your child is out sick, please call us to let us know why. If we don't hear from you, we will be calling to check in. This will help us to keep an eye on the health of our community.

We'll continue to stay in contact with you and update you with new information as we receive it.

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