

# **OLMC Children's Faith Formation (CFF)**

## **2021-2022 COVID-19 GUIDELINES**

### **Introduction:**

Dear parents, guardians, and volunteer staff members,

Thank you for all that you did last year to make our CFF experience safe and enjoyable for the students. It's exciting to be back for the 2021-2022 CFF year. Our CFF theme is "Made for Love." It reminds us that our first vocation, or calling, is to love. Love is often understood as merely a sentiment or emotion, but Jesus Christ teaches us that it's so much more. He shows us what love looks like in practice, and it's by grace that we're able to follow His lead. To love is to be a gift of self for the good of others.

It's for the sake of this love that we take precautions for the safety of our students, volunteers, and staff. It would have been wonderful to be able to begin the new CFF year with COVID-19 concerns mostly behind us, but that's not the case. In conferring with our medical advisors, which include the state and county health departments, local medical professionals, and several neighboring schools, it's apparent that we still need to proceed with caution when it comes to lifting restrictions. Consequently, we'll follow OLMC School's Covid updated precautions, slightly adapted for CFF. Please note that these guidelines are subject to change.

Please join us in prayer for a safe and joyful CFF year.

In Christ,

Leighton Drake  
Director of Children's Faith Formation & Middle School Ministry

### **Screening and Attendance:**

OLMC will continue to ask students, volunteers, and staff to remain home whenever they are experiencing symptoms associated with Covid-19 infection.

Students and school staff will be expected to stay home for all of the following reasons:

- When exhibiting any symptoms associated with Covid-19.
- After close contact with persons who have tested positive for Covid-19 if they are unvaccinated.

In the event that a student who has attended CFF tests positive for COVID-19 at any point during the school year, please contact the CFF administration. It is essential that we're notified immediately of a confirmed positive case in our student body to enable us to make an immediate and appropriate response. Thank you.

## Masks:

Masks will be optional for all students, school staff, and visitors to Our Lady of Mount Carmel School. We highly recommend that unvaccinated individuals wear masks while in the building. In the event that we must temporarily require masks, they will be required for all students, school staff, and visitors, regardless of vaccination status.

Masks worn in the school must be Catholic-appropriate and non-political.

## Vaccinations:

Individuals are only considered fully vaccinated two weeks after the final injection of their vaccination cycle. An individual with a positive antibody test in the absence of vaccination is not considered fully vaccinated. According to the CDC and Indiana State Department of Health, fully vaccinated students and staff are exempt from close contact quarantines as long as they remain asymptomatic.

Vaccinations are not mandated for students or volunteers. Please note that the CDC does recommend that unvaccinated individuals wear masks in indoor public settings.

## Distancing:

CFF students will participate in an in-person learning environment. Students will collaborate with their peers through group work, classroom discussions, and other interactive learning experiences throughout the session. We will continue to use caution in all interactions. Hand sanitizer will be available in all classrooms.

Students will be spaced as much as possible when at their desks. Seating charts will be used for classes for contact tracing purposes.

The use of shared materials/tools will be minimal. We'll provide personal supplies as possible.

Students will stay with their groups as much as possible.

Students will need to bring their own water bottle. We will continue to use our water bottle filling stations (water fountains will be turned off).

## Health Clinic:

Students and staff may be asked to wear a face-covering upon entry to the health clinic. If this is the case, a mask will be provided.

If a student exhibits symptoms of COVID-19, parents will be contacted to pick up the student. In these cases, students will be able to return to CFF once a negative PCR COVID test has been obtained and symptoms have resolved.

If a family declines testing, the student would need to isolate at home for 10 days and be fever free for 48 hours without the use of medication before returning to CFF.

## Confirmed Cases:

If a student, or a member of the student's household, is confirmed positive for COVID-19, we ask that the family inform CFF administration immediately by calling the office (317.846.3878).

## Cooperation with local health officials:

Using the guidance provided by the Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana, the Indiana Department of Education, Hamilton County Health Department, the following procedures will be in place:

- OLMC staff will conduct a brief case investigation interview to help determine close contacts among the CFF community to provide to the Hamilton County Health Department. The student or community member's close groupings will be considered, such as teams, classroom seating arrangements, etc.
- The individual who tested positive will not be identified in communications to the CFF community at large but may need to be selectively identified for contact tracing by the Hamilton County Health Department.
- Hamilton County Health Department will be responsible for contacting the person confirmed with COVID-19, informing direct contacts of their possible exposure, and providing instructions to those involved with the confirmed case, including siblings and other household members regarding self-quarantine and exclusions.

## Positive Student Cases:

Individuals who test positive for COVID-19 must stay home for 10 days following the onset of symptoms or a positive test result and must be 48 hours fever free without fever reducing medications and symptoms improved before returning from isolation.

Contact tracing will take place in the school.

The Hamilton County Health Department will be notified if there is a confirmed case of COVID-19 within the school building.

## Quarantine due to close contact:

Students who are fully vaccinated will not need to quarantine due to close contact with a positive case. Parents will be notified and should monitor for symptoms.

Students who are not fully vaccinated will need to quarantine if they are identified as a close contact with a positive case.

## Remote Learning for COVID-Related Absences:

When it becomes necessary for a student to work from home for a specified period of time, OLMC CFF is committed to supporting them through their absence from CFF. In the event of such an absence, your child's catechist will communicate the lesson plan for your child at your

request. As always, please reach out to your child's catechist or CFF administration with any questions or concerns.

### Cleaning Procedures:

We will continue with cleaning and disinfecting high touch points throughout CFF day with EPA approved cleaners. Cleaning supplies and hand sanitizer will be available for all classrooms and meeting spaces.

Students, volunteers, and staff are also encouraged and given the opportunity to wash hands frequently.

### Ongoing Support:

As we continue to adjust to a more familiar way of CFF life, it is important to stay focused on our children's mental health. Children thrive on routine and structure, and changes to that might cause some anxiety or fear.

Please continue to offer opportunities for your child to share their thoughts and concerns with you.

Remind your student of the safety protocols that are in place and encourage them to talk with their teachers if they have questions.

If you have concerns, do not hesitate to contact us.

*\*Please note that these restrictions and guidelines are subject to change.*

*LD Updated 8/31/2021*