

*Email from Sr. Maria Benedicta, O.P. dated Nov 12, 2020*

*"Rejoice in hope, be steadfast in trial, persevere in prayer." (Romans 12:12)*

Dear OLMC Parents,

Good evening. First, I want to thank all of our school families for the careful attention you have all taken in following the COVID-19 precautions delineated in our school reopening plan. Since August 12 until now, we have not had one reported case of a student nor staff member who tested positive for COVID-19. We have certainly been so blessed! However, we knew that such good fortune would not last forever, especially as positive cases in our state have been recently increasing.

We have learned that an OLMC student has tested positive for the COVID-19 virus. I have already contacted the Hamilton County Health Department, and our representative has confirmed that no contact tracing on the school's end is needed. Contact tracing procedures in schools occur when a student who tests positive for COVID-19 has had exposure to other students in the school 48 hours prior to the onset of symptoms and/or to the day they received a positive test. Thankfully, we can confirm that no students nor staff members have been exposed to this student during this timeframe.

Of course, due to HIPPA regulations, the individual who tested positive for COVID-19 will not be identified. Please pray for this member of our community.

At this time, we are not aware of other COVID-19 cases at OLMC School. For the safety of our community, please report to us if at any point you or your child tests positive for COVID-19.

Because this is the first known case of a student with COVID-19, OLMC School is contacting all OLMC parents. In the future, however, **the school will just contact the parents of the grade-level in which the community member resides.** The total number of students who have tested positive for Covid-19 will be reported each week in the Messages from the Mount.

**Please know that OLMC School plans to remain open and continue to provide in-person learning at this time. If the school makes the decision to change to an alternate mode of learning in the future, parents will be duly notified.**

I want to thank all of the OLMC parents who have taken measures to quarantine their children when they sensed they should keep their children home from school out of an abundance of caution. Also, I am grateful to parents who have followed through with quarantine measures when their children have been identified as close contacts. Quarantining can certainly be inconvenient for families, but this safety measure works in keeping the community safe. When parents keep their children home when there is a suspicion that their child or a household member might be positive for COVID-19, the school community certainly benefits because such prudent decisions limit the chances of potential exposure.

I ask that all families continue to be vigilant and monitor for symptoms before your children come to school each day. Also, please continue to practice the [CDC's recommended safety](#)

protocol, such as wearing a mask and maintaining a six-foot physical distance when in public and practice thorough hand-washing.

For your information, below are a couple of additional COVID-19 resources:

**COVID-19 Resources:**

- Indiana State Department of Health Hotline - 877-826-0011 (8 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily)
- COVID testing sites, consult the Indiana State Department of Health COVID-19 [website locator map](#)

We pray that our members of the OLMC community will continue to stay safe and healthy. Again, thank you again for all of the myriad ways you are slowing down the transmission of this virus in our community by taking adequate precautions. We are grateful!

In Christ, our hope,  
OLMC School Administration

**OLMC School Reopening Prayer:**

Heavenly Father, thank you for the many blessings in my life.  
The gift of my family, friends, and my Catholic school.  
Lord, be with me as I take on the challenges of this day.  
Grant me the gift of peace and understanding where any anxiety or uncertainty lies.  
Help me to replace any fear with the love of your Son.  
Keep me and all those around me safe and healthy. Amen.

Our Lady of Mount Carmel, pray for us!