

November 17th, 2020

Dear faculty, staff, and families,

On Sunday evening, November 15, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services issued a [Gatherings and Face Mask Order \(PDF\)](#) that impacts our schools. It calls for all high schools to move to online learning beginning November 18 and continuing through December 8. It also increases the limits on indoor and outdoor gatherings, which impacts extracurriculars, and has resulted in an immediate (effective today) cessation of sports.

While we are still working through all the ramifications of this sudden announcement, here is what we know right now:

- Our preschool, elementary, and middle school classes will **continue in-person**. Per the State website: "Michigan has seen fewer outbreaks of COVID-19 associated with elementary and middle schools and younger children are most in need of in-person instruction."
- Extracurriculars (Tuesday Middle School play practice and Thursday after school tutoring) for all grade levels will continue normally as they are an extension of the school day and cohorted according to classrooms. If you do not feel comfortable sending your child to an afterschool event, OLLRCS respects your decision as a parent to have your child not attend without academic penalty.
- See the [Michigan.gov website](#) for further details on the order.

Due to OLLRCS's small size in combination with the Governor's phase 4 recommendations being implemented the first day of school, August 25th, there are very few changes for our students today. The biggest change is that the staff has been stricter in classes with the masks asking all students K-8th grade to wear a mask full time, with mask breaks at their seats which are socially distanced 6 feet or have barriers. The students have been excellent with the stricter mask wearing and we have heard very few complaints. Thank you for partnering with us in teaching your child the importance of wearing a mask in public. There is a daily COVID 19 update on our school website indicating the number of cases and quarantines OLLRCS currently has. This reporting is located under the "About Us" tab.

As always, please feel free to contact myself at any time with further concerns at 989-366-5592. Thank you for entrusting your child to OLLRCS. Our number one priority is the safety of our students and staff.

Many Blessings,

Michelle Johnson
Principal
Our Lady of the Lake Regional Catholic School