

3-3-2020

Dear OLMC Community,

I understand that we are all deeply concerned about the coronavirus. I know you all join me in my prayers of healing and comfort to our global neighbors – near and far – who have suffered from the coronavirus. I receive regular “situational awareness” communications on prevention and confirmed coronavirus cases from Pamela Lyons, the Archdiocese of San Francisco Superintendent, and the San Mateo County Office of Education.

I want you all to know the preventive measures we have taken at school to ensure that our children, faculty and staff remain as healthy as possible:

Nightly janitorial cleaning:

Effective today, all desktops, tables, railings, and doorknobs (frequently touched surfaces) in classrooms and offices will be disinfected with a 3% hydrogen peroxide solution. Our janitors have been trained and will continue this disinfecting practice until further notice.

Encourage hand washing:

Faculty will add time into their schedule to offer sufficient time for ***all*** students to wash their hands before morning snack, lunchtime, and any other occasion when students might be eating. As always, faculty always encourage all students to wash hands after using the restroom.

Freeze school field trips:

In order to avoid children being exposed to environments out of their usual routine, we will freeze all school field trips until further notice.

Sincerely,



Deborah Farrington, Ed.D.
Principal, Our Lady of Mount Carmel School

Please see the following excerpts from the CDC: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other relevant sources. Please also see a letter from Superintendent Lyons and prevention info sheets in English, Spanish, Chinese, and Filipino.

CDC: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Frequently Asked Questions and Answers: Coronavirus Disease-2019 (COVID-19) and Children

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/specific-groups/children-faq.html>

“Q: Are children more susceptible to the virus that causes COVID-19 compared with the general population and how can infection be prevented?”

A: No, there is no evidence that children are more susceptible. In fact, most confirmed cases of COVID-19 reported from China have occurred in adults. Infections in children have been reported, including in very young children. From limited information published from past Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome coronavirus (SARS-CoV) and Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) outbreaks, infection among children was relatively uncommon.

For information on risk, please see current risk assessment. Children should engage in usual preventive actions to avoid infection, including cleaning hands often using soap and water or alcohol-based hand sanitizer, avoiding people who are sick, and staying up to date on vaccinations, including influenza vaccine. Additional information on prevention measures can be found here (Prevention for 2019 Novel Coronavirus).”

NBC News

'We simply do not understand why': Coronavirus is sparing children, puzzling experts

<https://www.nbcnews.com/health/health-news/we-simply-do-not-understand-why-coronavirus-sparing-children-puzzling-n1147951>

“As the novel coronavirus spreads around the globe, sickening more than 90,000 people and killing about 3,000, doctors have noticed something curious: Very few children have been diagnosed with it. And of those who have, most have had mild cases.”

CDC: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Interim Guidance for Businesses and Employers to Plan and Respond to Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), February 2020

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/specific-groups/guidance-business-response.html>

“Perform routine environmental cleaning:

- Routinely clean all frequently touched surfaces in the workplace, such as workstations, countertops, and doorknobs. Use the cleaning agents that are usually used in these areas and follow the directions on the label.
- No additional disinfection beyond routine cleaning is recommended at this time.
- Provide disposable wipes so that commonly used surfaces (for example, doorknobs, keyboards, remote controls, desks) can be wiped down by employees before each use.”