



# CMS Re-Opening Updates

## Quick Reminders

School will be closed on **Monday, January 18<sup>th</sup>** in observance of Martin Luther King Jr Day. We encourage you to spend time with your children discussing this holiday. There are numerous resources available online and in print that help to articulate the significance of Dr. King's contributions to society in age-appropriate ways. If you need any recommendations or suggestions, please don't hesitate to contact one of our staff members.

The final tuition payment of the 2020-2021 school year will be due on **January 15<sup>th</sup>**.

Re-enrollment contracts and sibling enrollment applications will be coming out in the next few weeks. As is the case in many recent years, we have an extensive waiting list so please be prepared to review and respond to these documents when they come out.

Mardi Gras break will begin with a half-day dismissal (11:30am) on **Friday, February 12<sup>th</sup>**. School will be closed for the full following week. School will resume on **Monday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>**.

**IMPORTANT:** the picnic table area and the entire field of grass along the bayou side bordering the cul-de-sac is church/school property. As such, this area is subject to our MASK MANDATE when within 6' of others. This includes the use of this outdoor space by parents & their children after school dismissal (including non-students over the age of 2).

*"Each and every measure we have been watching closely is indicating a major community outbreak in New Orleans," said Dr. Jennifer Avegno, Director of the New Orleans Health Department. "We need everyone's cooperation to slow the spread and save lives immediately. If you can work from home, work from home. If you have a playdate, dinner party, sleepover, barbeque, visit to a relative or other gathering scheduled, please cancel it. There is a light at the end of the tunnel with vaccines underway in Louisiana, but vaccines only work for those who are alive to receive them."*

## Dear CMS Families,

*A few words from our Head of School, Billie Andersson*

Our re-opening team met last night to discuss the uptick in community spread of COVID19 as well as the city's late afternoon announcement about moving to a "modified" Phase 1. At this point, given the information we have received and reviewed, CMS is not required to adjust anything about our approach given our exceptionally safe record for in-person learning. We will continue with in-person learning at this time. Nonetheless, we are actively monitoring and carefully weighing all the factors to ensure we continue to pursue the safest possible path forward for our students and our teachers.

It isn't *all* bad when you have king cake, right?



For full transparency, I want to share some of the reasons that underpin our re-opening team's decision to continue with in-person learning at this moment:

- Our understanding of NOLA public school's decision for distance learning was driven in large part by a high number of staff members out with COVID or with close contact quarantines, as well as ongoing logistical challenges with elements such as bussing and physical distancing.
- The research and data continues to indicate that babies, preschoolers and elementary-aged children are not sources of outbreak or significant COVID spread.
- There is substantial momentum, supported by research, to keep kids in school whenever safely possible.
- The exceptional alignment and compliance across *our school's* adult community on COVID mitigation measures (as spelled out in the CMS COVID Commitment) document and as evidenced by our track record of zero cases thus far.
- In short - because our teachers and our parents have demonstrated such a great job of being safe and sticking to the well-established COVID mitigations, whether at school or not, we feel that our campus will continue to be a safe place for in-person learning. Although we are hopeful, we are also being realistic and watching the community spread carefully for a potential tipping point.

Our Re-Opening Team will move to meeting weekly (or more frequently as needed) while we move together through this period of heightened community transmission. As always, I encourage you to keep up the support of our COVID Commitment mitigation measures.

## Re-Opening Team Recap:

### Regulatory and Medical Updates

Data last updated on Wednesday, January 6, 2021



COVID THREAT LEVEL

### Active or imminent outbreak

Orleans Parish is either actively experiencing an outbreak or is at extreme risk. COVID cases are exponentially growing, hospitals are at risk of overload, and/or Orleans Parish's COVID preparedness is significantly below international standards.

"Modified" phase 1 for 3 weeks, effective Friday January 8<sup>th</sup> at 6am.

Metrics have doubled in last week.

City asks for community's cooperation to slow spread.

NEW CASES  
(7-day avg)

● 224

Dangerous number of new cases.

INFECTION RATE  
(weighted 14-day avg)

● 1.20

Active cases are exponentially increasing.

POSITIVE TEST RATE  
(weekly)

● 10.4%

Indicates dangerously little testing.

HOSPITAL BEDS IN USE

● 73.7%

High risk of hospital overload.

PERCENT OF CASES NOT REACHED IN 24 HOURS

● 56.5%

High risk of contacts not being informed.