



# REOPENING MERCY, PART THREE

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2020-2021





October 7, 2020

Dear Mercy families,

We are pleased to share with you “Reopening Mercy, Part 3,” which contains important information for families as we move from ***Mercy PACE*** to ***Mercy Hybrid***. Per our September 25th communication, ***Mercy Hybrid*** will go into effect on Monday, October 12.

We have continued to work carefully on protocols and procedures as well as facility enhancements to protect the health and safety of our community. As part of our efforts, Mercy Medical Center’s director of infection prevention and control walked our campus and reviewed our protocols. At her recommendation and in line with a number of Archdiocese of Baltimore schools and churches, we contracted with Vytis Shield to apply a bioburden reducing coating to surfaces throughout our campus. Learn more [here](#). The coatings were completed last week.



As good as our protocols and procedures are, it is critical that students, faculty, and staff who exhibit symptoms of COVID-19 do not travel to campus. Completing the daily health screening through MyMedBot is essential. If the app advises that your daughter is not cleared, she should stay home. *If there is any doubt, please keep your daughter at home and contact your healthcare provider.*

We very much look forward to the next few weeks as we welcome students to school for academic instruction. They are the Magic of Mercy! Together we will work our hardest to keep your daughters praying, learning, laughing, and thriving!

In this month dedicated to the Blessed Mother, we ask that she continue to bless our reopening—another milestone in this extraordinary year.

Sincerely,

Mary Beth Lennon '85  
President

Jeanne A. Blakeslee  
Principal

Mary Ella Franz Marion '76, P'09  
Dean of Students





October 7, 2020

## OUT-OF-STATE TRAVEL ADVISORY

Dear Mercy families,

Mercy High School continues to follow closely the developing safety guidelines and recommendations during the COVID-19 pandemic from the Maryland Department of Health, the Baltimore City Health Department, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The Maryland Department of Health has issued a public health advisory for out-of-state travel, which states that Marylanders are strongly advised against traveling to states with positivity rates of 10% or higher. The CDC warns that travel increases your chance of getting and spreading COVID-19 and recommends that the best way to protect yourself and others is to stay home.

Mercy High School continues to work diligently to mitigate the risks of COVID-19. Therefore, in alignment with the Archdiocese of Baltimore policy, students, faculty, and staff must notify our school nurse, Ms. Mary Rizzi-Ayd, RN, BSN in writing prior to out-of-state travel. Please direct your correspondence to Ms. Rizzi-Ayd at [mrizzi-ayd@mercyhighschool.com](mailto:mrizzi-ayd@mercyhighschool.com).

If a student, faculty, or staff member elects to travel to a state or country with a positivity rate for COVID-19 of 10% or greater (see <https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/testing/tracker/overview>, those traveling are required to follow the guidelines stated below:

- Quarantine for five days.
- Undergo COVID-19 testing on or after the 5th day.
- Submit evidence of a negative test result. We will not accept a rapid test result.
- Be symptom free.

Note: If a student, faculty or staff member elects NOT to undergo COVID-19 testing, the person must quarantine for a period of 14 days.

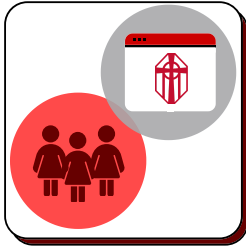
We continue to evaluate and update our recommendations as informed by the Maryland Department of Health, the Baltimore City Health Department, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Many thanks for helping us in promoting and protecting the health and well-being of our community.

Sincerely,

Mary Ella Franz Marion '76, P'09  
Dean of Students

Mary Rizzi-Ayd, RN, BSN  
School Nurse

# Mercy HYBRID



In the **Mercy Hybrid** model, approximately 50% of our students are on campus at one time. Beginning Monday, October 12, all students will have the Hybrid schedule. Only freshmen will be on campus, with Group 1 freshmen coming to school on Monday and Tuesday, and Group 2 freshmen coming to school on Thursday and Friday. When at home, students will access their classes virtually. Beginning Monday, October 19, sophomores, juniors, and seniors will join the freshmen on campus. The schedule for this academic model is listed below. Students who select the virtual option, not coming to campus for classes, will also not be able to come to campus for other activities.

## Mercy Hybrid Schedule

Group 1 Garnet Day	Group 1 Gold Day	Purple Day (Virtual)*	Group 2 Garnet Day	Group 2 Gold Day
7:55-8:05 a.m. Announcements and Prayer		8:00-8:20 a.m. Advisory	7:55-8:05 a.m. Announcements and Prayer	
8:05-9:15 a.m. Pattern A	8:05-9:15 a.m. Pattern E	8:30-9:10 a.m. Pattern A	8:05-9:15 a.m. Pattern A	8:05-9:15 a.m. Pattern E
9:25-10:35 a.m. Pattern B	9:25-10:35 a.m. Pattern F	9:20-10:00 a.m. Pattern B	9:25-10:35 a.m. Pattern B	9:25-10:35 a.m. Pattern F
10:45-11:55 a.m. Pattern C	10:45-11:55 a.m. Pattern G	10:10-10:50 a.m. Pattern C	10:45-11:55 a.m. Pattern C	10:45-11:55 a.m. Pattern G
11:55-12:25 p.m. Lunch		11:00-11:40 a.m. Pattern D	11:55-12:25 p.m. Lunch	
		11:45-12:15 p.m. Lunch		
12:35-1:45 p.m. Pattern D	12:35-1:45 p.m. Pattern H	12:20-1:00 p.m. Pattern E	12:35-1:45 p.m. Pattern D	12:35-1:45 p.m. Pattern H
		1:10-1:50 p.m. Pattern F		
1:55-2:35 p.m. Seminar Group 1 Advisee Group 3 MYP Group 4	1:55-2:35 p.m. Seminar Group 3 Advisee Group 1 MYP Group 2	2:00-2:40 p.m. Pattern G	1:55-2:35 p.m. Seminar Group 2 Advisee Group 4 MYP Group 3	1:55-2:35 p.m. Seminar Group 4 Advisee Group 2 MYP Group 1
		2:50-3:30 p.m. Pattern H		
2:40-3:20 p.m. Magic Time	2:40-3:20 p.m. Teacher Meetings	3:40-4:00 p.m. Faculty/Staff Meetings	2:40-3:20 p.m. Magic Time	2:40-3:20 p.m. Flex Time

**\*Purple Days will be used for office hours or resource time at the teacher's discretion, and AP classes will usually meet.**



## STUDENT *Life*

### Arrival on Campus

Freshmen and sophomores will be dropped off in Lot C, closest to The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Auditorium and enter the main building by Door 17. They will go immediately down the stairs, bypass the gym, and proceed to their first period classrooms. Check-in will be in first period classes rather than advisory.

Juniors and seniors will be dropped off or will park in Lot A, and enter the main building by Door 1. They will proceed to their first period classrooms.

### Attendance

Because of the unusual nature of this year, there will be no perfect attendance awards.

### Campus Hours

The campus will be open from 7:15 a.m. to 4 p.m. To facilitate cleaning, no students should arrive before 7:15 a.m. or stay beyond 4 p.m., unless in a supervised student activity. Students who are attending athletic practices have been advised of the careful guidelines they must follow to attend practice and only those students are permitted in the athletic complex.

### Dismissal

Students not participating in after-school activities must be picked up by 4 p.m. Students should be picked up at the same locations as they were dropped off. Freshmen and sophomores are to be picked up in Lot C; juniors and seniors are to be picked up in Lot A.



## Dress Code and Uniform

Students should arrive on campus in full uniform, as they will not have access to lockers on campus. They should be prepared to carry their belongings with them throughout the day. Students who have a physical and health education class on a particular day will wear their gym uniform to school and wear it for the duration of the school day. During the cold weather portion of the school year, students may wear Mercy-branded sweatpants and sweatshirts in red, black, or grey.

Athletes on Mercy's soccer, field hockey, volleyball, and cross country teams will wear their gym uniforms to school for the duration of the school day. During the cold weather portion of the school year, students may wear Mercy-branded sweatpants and sweatshirts in red, black, or grey.

When a Mercy Girl has dance (Dance Appreciation, Apprentice Dance Company, or Dance Troupe), she will wear a leotard and tights under her school uniform.

## Lunch

Students should bring a bag lunch that does not require heating or refrigeration. Students can bring a water bottle to fill from our touchless water stations. The vending machines and microwaves will not be available.

## Student Activities

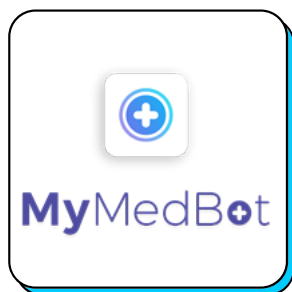
Some after-school club meetings will be virtual and others will be hybrid, depending upon size of club and moderator preference. Club members will be directly notified by the moderator. Most club meetings will be held via Teams.

# HEALTH AND SAFETY

## *Protocols*

## Contact Tracing and Notification

Parents/guardians are responsible for reporting to the school nurse if they or their daughters have been diagnosed with COVID-19, have COVID-19 symptoms, or otherwise have reason to believe they or their daughters have contracted COVID-19. In the event of a positive transmission within the community, contact tracing will be conducted by the nurse in collaboration with the Baltimore City Health Department. In the event that it is necessary for students to quarantine, families will be notified immediately. All communication will be shared in a timely manner and will be strictly confidential.



## Daily Health Screening

All students, faculty, and staff must complete a daily health screening via the MyMedBot app prior to leaving home, no later than 7 a.m. Completion of the screening and a clearance to attend school is mandatory for all campus activities. The questions contained in the screening are about daily temperature, symptoms, contact, and travel. It is imperative, for the health of the Mercy community, for each person to be completely truthful in response to the screening questions.

## Flu Shots

All members of the community are encouraged to receive a flu shot this fall. This precautionary step will help reduce illness.

## Health Room Procedures and Information

Mercy High School's nurse, Ms. Mary Rizzi-Ayd, RN, BSN, will monitor the daily health screening of all students, faculty, and staff. She will also be involved in any contact tracing, when necessary.

The Health Room has undergone renovations and is the home base for the school nurse. The Attendance Office, also located off the lobby, will handle non-critical health issues. An Isolation Room has been identified for anyone who might need separation from others in the school. Students presenting possible COVID-19 symptoms should be picked up from school within 30 minutes of notification.

## Masks

All students, faculty, and staff must wear a face mask when on campus. Student cloth masks must be in accordance with uniform standards. These are black, grey, red, and white masks with no visible symbols or words. Masks purchased from the school store are acceptable. Masks must be worn indoors and whenever social distancing is not practical in outdoor spaces.

## Meet Our School Nurse!

With a deep background in education and nursing, Ms. Mary Rizzi-Ayd, RN, BSN is exceptionally qualified for her work at Mercy High School. Beginning her career as a middle school English teacher, she made a career change, completing her BSN at Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing. Ms. Rizzi-Ayd has more than 25 years of nursing experience, including seven years as the school nurse at St. Ursula School and two years at the Institute of Notre Dame. She is in close communication with nurse colleagues working in the Archdiocese of Baltimore, as well as private schools throughout Maryland. Ms. Rizzi-Ayd has developed a strong relationship with local public health authorities and is a key partner to Mercy's leadership team in managing school protocols and procedures.



*Ms. Mary Rizzi-Ayd, RN, BSN*  
School Nurse

## Out-of-State Travel

Faculty, staff, and students are encouraged to limit travel beyond Maryland during the school year. If a member of the community travels to an area that has a COVID-19 positivity rate of 10% or greater, he or she must quarantine for five days, engaging in school or work virtually. To return to campus, the individual must undergo COVID-19 testing on or after the 5th day and submit evidence of a negative test result. Mercy will not accept a rapid test result. If an individual elects not to undergo COVID-19 testing, he or she must quarantine for a period of 14 days. Visit this [link](#) to see if states you are visiting have reached that threshold.

## Visitor Policy

Campus buildings are limited to faculty, staff, students, and essential guests (delivery and service vendors). Parents should contact the receptionist at 410-433-8880 for any special needs during the school day.

## Facilities Safety and Cleaning Procedures

As part of the facilities safety and cleaning procedures, we contracted with Vytis Shield to apply a protective barrier mist to all indoor spaces throughout the campus.

There will be intensive daily cleaning of all areas of the school on a daily basis. Additional facilities modifications include NanoSeptic door handles and door plates, as well as ventilation and HVAC filter enhancements to maximize air flow and quality. Protective plexiglass has been installed as needed in many offices, some classrooms, and other spaces on campus.

Hand sanitizer stations are available throughout campus. There is signage indicating new traffic patterns in each hallway and stairway. Signage related to optimal daily hygiene and adherence to social distancing are posted throughout the campus.

All student desks are positioned six feet apart. Between classes, classroom desks and chairs will be sanitized. Students have assigned desks in all classrooms, and they are assigned specific locations and seats for their free periods.

Mercy Medical Center's director of infection control and prevention has evaluated all classrooms and other campus spaces.

