

## U Prep School Re-Opening Family Member FAQs

*The following FAQs are general questions that are not campus specific and are based on current CDC, federal, state, and local guidance. This guidance is evolving as additional scientific information comes to light during the pandemic. As such, guidance and practices may evolve as needed based on new information that becomes available. This document is for quick reference use and if accidental discrepancies exist, the District's official COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan will be the governing document. Please contact your School Director for a detailed reopening plan for the campus where you work.*

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## 1. **What strategies does the CDC currently recommend around safely operating schools?**

The CDC currently recommends the following strategies to support teacher, student, and staff safety.

1. Universal and correct use of masks - covering nose and mouth.
2. Physical distancing - maintaining 6 feet of distance whenever possible and using cohorts or pods when possible.
3. Proper handwashing, cough covering, and tissue use/disposal.
4. Maintaining clean facilities - high touch surfaces and air filtration.
5. Prompt contact tracing, isolation, and quarantine when required.
6. COVID testing to identify individuals and limit transmission and outbreaks.
7. Vaccination for teachers and school staff.

In addition, students and families are reminded of the importance of following these same recommendations in their home and community as evidence suggests that staff and student cases and spread are primarily occurring outside of school on nights and weekends through social events. Following protocols outside of school will help keep in person learning safe and reduce the risk of spread.

For CDC guidance on school operations, please visit: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/operation-strategy.html>

## 2. **Are Teachers required to receive the COVID-19 vaccination before returning to work on campus?**

The CDC and local health department recommend vaccination against COVID-19 as a means of decreasing your risk of getting COVID-19, decreasing your risk of severe illness if you get COVID-19, to help prevent the spread of disease in our community, and to help shorten the pandemic. Teachers and school staff are part of the Phase 1B group - in recognition of the need to protect those on the frontline in critical roles in our community.

We recommend and highly encourage Teachers get vaccinated for their own personal health and safety, but we recognize the decision is a personal choice, and Teachers are not required to do so before returning to work on campus. Getting a vaccine may help Teachers feel more comfortable returning to work and will help our scholars, families, and the rest of the U Prep Crew feel better about returning to campus as well.

In cooperation with the City/County, we attempted to organize our own vaccine clinic. However, current vaccine supplies are limited and so the City recommends we continue to direct all staff to the TCF Center for vaccination. Staff should be sure to indicate they are an “Educator in the City of Detroit” when scheduling to ensure they are given priority for vaccination.

Note: we will begin gathering information on which Crew Members have been vaccinated via a Crew Member survey so that we can share school or district wide stats around this and because we are required to handle contact tracing differently based on someone’s vaccination status.

To get info on vaccinations at the TCF Center, check out the [City of Detroit website](#) or call 313-230-0505.

For more information on the benefits of the COVID-19 vaccine, please feel free to check out the

CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/vaccine-benefits.html>

CDC information on essential worker vaccination can be found here:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/recommendations/essentialworker.html>

**3. Do Teachers need to provide proof that they tested negative for COVID-19 prior to the first day of in-person instruction? Do Scholars need to provide proof that they have tested negative for COVID-19 prior to the first day of in person instruction?**

All Educators and Staff who will be returning to campus for In Person Learning or to support In Person Learning will be required to submit a negative COVID-19 test prior to returning to campus. The test will need to be taken within the 11-day window prior to a return to campus. Negative results should be submitted to [test.results@uprepschools.com](mailto:test.results@uprepschools.com) prior to entering campus.

Note: any individual who has previously tested positive within the last three months is not recommended to test as data shows that residual virus material may still be present which will trigger a positive test even if the individual is no longer ill or transmitting the virus. Those individuals should submit their positive test results (including date of test) to [test.results@uprepschools.com](mailto:test.results@uprepschools.com) prior to entering campus in order to demonstrate compliance with the testing requirement.

We are working with Wayne Health to coordinate a U Prep Schools Testing clinic to simplify the process for Teachers and Staff to get tested before returning to the classroom or office. Teachers and Staff may get tested elsewhere if they wish. More details will follow on the dates/times. We will also give Scholars the opportunity to test if they want but will not require it. The testing of Staff is in line with CDC Guidance and our hope is that testing can increase teacher, staff, scholar, and family confidence that the U Prep Crew is safe to return. Testing of asymptomatic individuals is recommended by the CDC in schools within communities that have experienced moderate to high community transmission and/or disproportionate impact.

We trust that all U Prep Crew members want to keep our scholars, their families, and our Crew safe and that Teachers will not report to work and will alert their leader if they are positive, experiencing symptoms, pending test results due to symptoms or a close contact exposure, or have been identified of a close contact exposure and need to quarantine.

CDC guidance on testing in K-12 schools can be found here:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-testing.html>

**4. How often do Teachers need to get tested and show a negative result after the first day of in-person instruction?**

We are working with Wayne Health to establish a testing clinic to support testing prior to your return. In addition, we will offer the option of ongoing testing for Educators and Staff when needed or desired. We are seeking guidance from Wayne Health on the medical recommendations around testing in general and for those who have been fully vaccinated.

The testing consists of the lower nasal swab (PCR) test, not the full sinus swab. This testing will be free (covered by State Grant or Medical Insurance if available) and held on a few designated campuses on various days to ease completion.

**5. Are Scholars required to get the vaccine and/or submit a negative COVID-19 test result prior to the first day of in-classroom instruction?**

The vaccine is currently only authorized for those ages 16 or older. Scholars who are 16 years or older are encouraged to get the vaccine but it is not required and is ultimately, a personal family

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decision to be made by the parents, caregiver, and/or guardian. Most local vaccine distribution restrictions don't even allow students to be vaccinated at this time due to the prioritization of other at risk groups.

We encourage families to take their Scholars to be tested prior to a return to campus but will not require it. We will offer Scholars the chance to get tested at our Testing Clinic also. Again, more details on dates/times to follow.

See FAQ #17-20 for more information on Scholars, Educators, or Staff who are displaying symptoms or may have been exposed.

**6. Will Teachers & Staff need to complete a daily health check-in through Frontline prior to entering the school?**

Yes, it is a requirement that all employees complete the daily health screening prior to entering the school or other U Prep facilities. Additionally, employees must complete the QR code screen if they travel to another school location or the Central Management office.

**7. Will Scholars need to complete a health check daily and will their temperatures be taken daily when they arrive at school?**

Families will be responsible for screening their scholar each morning prior to sending them to school. Temperature screening will be done on campus upon arrival. Secondary screening will be done on campus if a student exhibits symptom or expresses that they are experiencing symptoms.

Scholars will either need to complete the same QR code-based screen staff complete or parents must complete a commitment form with the parent's signature and date of completion that will serve as a commitment to check their child's temperature and review their child's health daily before their child enters a U Prep School.

A list of common COVID-19 symptoms will be included on the form in addition to instructions for its completion and submission to the schools. This form must be completed and returned to the school prior to or on the first day of in-classroom instruction. The QR code may be best for those Scholars that are older and have their own phone, whereas the commitment form is likely more effective for young Scholars without their own phone.

**8. Will Teachers have to complete the daily health screening and continue to wear a mask if they have been vaccinated?**

Yes. It is a State of Michigan requirement that all businesses conduct daily health screenings, require employees to wear masks, promote social distancing whenever possible, and encourage frequent hand washing.

In addition, the CDC and Vaccine makers still recommend mask wearing, social distancing, and hand washing because not enough data is available at this time to indicate whether or not being partially or fully vaccinated prevents you from spreading the virus to others even if you don't become ill or symptomatic. So, you will be expected to continue to mask, social distance, practice good health hygiene and complete the daily health screening.

Note: we are aware of the revised CDC guidance issued on 3/8/21 about mask rules for those who are fully vaccinated. We have reviewed the guidance in detail and found that masks are still recommended in any large group gatherings, when interacting with those who have not been vaccinated or are at high risk. Since not all Teachers, Staff, and Scholars can or will be vaccinated, we will still require those who are fully vaccinated to wear a face mask. This will also help our Scholars through the modeling of desired group norms.

For more information on State of Michigan requirements, please visit:  
[https://www.michigan.gov/documents/leo/Final\\_MIOSHA\\_Rules\\_705164\\_7.pdf](https://www.michigan.gov/documents/leo/Final_MIOSHA_Rules_705164_7.pdf)

For more information on CDC guidance regarding masking and post vaccination guidelines, please visit: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/faq.html>

For more information on the 3/8/21 CDC guidance on fully vaccinated people and masking, please visit: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated.html>

**9. Will PPE be provided by the school for Teachers and Scholars?**

Masks were ordered and delivered to the schools over the summer. All employees were provided with three (3) reusable cloth masks. Scholars will be asked to bring their own clean mask each day they are onsite. Additional masks are being purchased to have on hand for Crew Members or Scholars. Scholars will be supplied with masks in the event they forget, lose their mask, or a mask is damaged.

**10. What building enhancements or planning has been done to help ensure the health and safety of the students, faculty, and staff?**

We have worked with School Directors, Facilities, Food Service, Purchasing, Human Resources, and others to ensure you have all necessary personal protection equipment (PPE), signage and materials to promote distancing, and that building modifications have been made where possible to help ensure the health and safety of our faculty, staff, and students.

Some examples include, spacing of classrooms and desks, increased use of common areas for distancing, partitions for Educator and Receptionist desks or for common area spaces where distancing can't be maintained, masks for covering your nose and mouth, the purchase of extra cleaning supplies, hand sanitizer in high use areas, signage and postings to remind everyone of social distancing and proper hand hygiene.

In addition, where possible, HVAC systems have been adjusted to increase fresh air flow beyond the State standard, UV lights have been added to HVAC systems during maintenance cycles, Electrostatic Disinfectors were purchased for each building for added sanitation of high use common spaces (cafeterias, restrooms) and in the event of a positive case, and water fountains are being replaced with hands free automatic water bottle filling stations.

Additional planning is underway by School Directors and School Operations Managers to modify student entrance/flow/exit, meal distribution and consumption, recess/breaks, and building specific practices.

**11. What is the daily sanitizing process before/during/after school?**

We will follow the protocols outlined in our UPrep COVID-19 Preparedness Plans required by the State. Buildings will be cleaned each day Scholars and Staff are present. Facilities will disinfect high touch surfaces in common spaces throughout the day. Buildings and classrooms will be cleaned nightly and on weekends. Teachers will wipe student desks and high touch surfaces at the mid-day point for standard classrooms and between all classes with high touch settings (Library, Computer Labs, Art). Teachers and Staff will wear a mask, gloves, and face shield while cleaning with approved and provided disinfectants.

**12. Will Teachers need to sanitize between classes, and will the supplies be provided?**

Yes. Teachers will focus on classroom spaces during the day and will be provided with disinfectants, paper towels, gloves, masks, and face shields, and be expected to wipe down key surfaces mid-day or as needed. Facilities will be focusing on common areas throughout the day.

**13. Will Scholars be able to utilize lockers?**

Scholars will NOT use lockers for the remainder of the school year to minimize hallway crowding, socialization, and increased high touch surface exposure. Instead, all Scholar materials will be kept in the classroom or in a backpack for those Scholars that need to move around the building. Ideally, Scholars will remain in the same area as much as possible.

**14. Will parents have access to the campus during the school day?**

Access to the schools is limited to Teachers and U Prep staff until further notice to decrease the opportunity for virus transmission. Parents or Caregivers who wish to meet with school leadership, faculty, or staff will need to request a meeting. Meetings with school leadership, faculty, or staff will occur virtually to limit access to the building as part of our health and safety protocols.

**15. Are families able to switch from in-person to virtual and vice-versa during the Quarter?**

Families will have the option to decide if they wish to return to in-person learning or remain virtual for the remainder of the school year. We ask that our families commit to one or the other so that plans can be made accordingly and maintained for the rest of the year.

Of course, a family who has a child who is identified as a close contact, becomes symptomatic, tests positive, or becomes ill from COVID-19 will be expected to temporarily refrain from in person learning until they are cleared to return. If the majority of a class qualified as a close contact or a Teacher was positive, a close contact, or symptomatic and a substitute could not be found, then a full classroom may temporarily return home to virtual learning until they are cleared to return to the school/classroom.

**16. Will Scholars attend in person or be virtual on Fridays?**

Fridays will continue to remain a virtual day except for special crew needs, credit recovery, or testing needs. School Directors and School Operations Managers will establish the schedule for on campus learning for their school and publish it when it is finalized.

**17. What is the communication process and health and safety protocols should a Scholar, Teacher, or Staff member exhibit symptoms of COVID-19 while on campus, receive a positive test result, or be identified as a close contact of a Staff or Scholar who tested positive?**

In general, impacted individuals will be informed immediately or as soon as administratively possible if they need to take action to leave school property, get tested, isolate (when testing positive), or quarantine (when exposed). Families must be prepared to pick up their child promptly (within an hour) if their child becomes ill or symptomatic.

Impacted families will be notified and local health officials will also be informed if required. Generally, those who are symptomatic or identified as a close contact should be tested a minimum of 2-3 days after becoming symptomatic or after contact. See the following questions for additional details around close contacts and positive test results.

**18. When is someone considered a close contact?**

The CDC guidance around close contact definitions has evolved as additional scientific information has become available during the pandemic. Currently, a close contact is defined as someone who has been within 6 feet of an infected person for more than 15 minutes cumulative within a 24 hour period that falls within the two (2) day period prior to the infected person becoming ill/symptomatic or prior to testing positive for those who are asymptomatic.

**19. If a teacher, staff member, or scholar is identified as a close contact through contact tracing - what happens? Will they need to be tested prior to returning to in person learning or a U Prep building?**

We will follow CDC and local health department practices for contact tracing. If someone is identified as a close contact, effective 2/11/2021, the Wayne County Health Department requires one of the following:

- Individuals who have not been vaccinated or who have only received one dose of a two dose vaccine series to quarantine at home for 14 days.
- Individuals who have had a positive confirmable COVID (PCR) test in the last 5 months are only required to quarantine for 10 days.
- Individuals who were fully vaccinated (completed both shots in a two shot vaccine series or completed one shot in a one-shot vaccine series) for at least 2 weeks, have been vaccinated fully within the last 3 months, AND are asymptomatic are not required to quarantine.

Individuals will also be expected to get tested a minimum of 2-3 days after contact or becoming symptomatic. Test results should be submitted to [test.results@uprepschools.com](mailto:test.results@uprepschools.com). Positive test results will prompt further contact tracing to decrease further spread. A negative test will not shorten the quarantine period (unless one of the exceptions listed above applies) because an individual may still develop COVID-19 up to 14 days after exposure. This is in line with current CDC and local health department guidance.

For further information from the CDC on Contact Tracing, please check out:  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/faq.html#Contact-Tracing>

**20. If a teacher, staff member, or scholar tests positive - what happens? Will they need to be tested prior to returning to in person learning or a U Prep building?**

If someone tests positive, the CDC recommends that individual isolate at home for 10 days. If you were positive but developed NO symptoms, you may return after 10 days. If you were positive and HAD symptoms, you may return 10 days after the START of symptoms AND when symptoms are improving AND you are fever free (without the aid of fever reducing medication, like Tylenol or ibuprofen) for at least 24 hours.

Note: a severe illness that requires hospitalization may require additional time before being cleared by a medical provider; the loss of taste or smell may continue for weeks even when all other symptoms of illness have ended and so these symptoms don't warrant extension of isolation; a negative test is not required as testing may not be available and residual virus material in the body may trigger a positive result in someone who has recovered.

For further information from the CDC, please check out:  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/isolation.html>

**21. Will my positive COVID-19 test result be disclosed to others?**

Employers are required to notify employees and/or families that they have been exposed to someone who tested positive for COVID-19 if they are considered a close contact. All reasonable steps will be taken to maintain the confidentiality of a staff member or scholar who tests positive and names will not be broadly published or communicated. Please note: the nature of contact tracing may result in staff, scholars, or family members using deductive reasoning to ascertain who a positive case may be even when disclosure by U Prep leadership does not occur.

Employers are permitted to disclose limited information on a “need-to-know basis” related to contact tracing, staffing, leave, payroll, and required reporting. This is likely to involve only senior

leaders, impacted managers, human resources and payroll staff, first aid and safety personnel, and government officials as required by law or needed to conduct business. All medical information obtained will be treated as confidential and disclosed only to those who are required to know. General reporting of COVID-19 cases will be done without names when case counts are reported to staff and families.