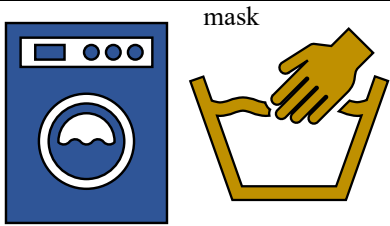


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**Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Service Plan**

The updated health and safety protocols for Uplift Education campuses and Central Management Offices for the 2021/2022 school year. The guidelines have been amended based on the Governor's Executive Order GA-36, TEA School Health Operations Requirements, and under the local health authorities, Dallas County Health and Human Services and Tarrant County Health Department, and CDC's safety recommendations. In addition, protocols will be adjusted to address specific needs or circumstances to protect the health and safety of scholars and staff.

<p><b>Universal and Correct wearing of a mask</b></p>	<p><b>All scholars, staff, and visitors are encouraged to wear face masks at school.</b> <i>Texas Governor's order prohibits public schools from requiring individuals to wear a mask.</i> Due to the circulating and highly contagious Delta variant, CDC recommends universal indoor masking by all students (age 2 and older), staff, teachers, and visitors to K-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status.</p> <p><b>Mask wearing is encouraged for the following reasons:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Highly contagious Delta variant circulating</li><li>• a significant portion of the scholar population is not eligible for vaccination</li><li>• protection of unvaccinated scholars from COVID-19 and to reduce transmission</li><li>• masking cannot be enforced in the school setting</li><li>• possibility of low vaccination uptake within the surrounding school community</li><li>• continued concerns for variants that are more easily spread among children, adolescents, and adult</li></ul> <p><b>The mask should fit snugly when worn, covering the nose, mouth, and chin, allowing for easy breathing.</b></p> <div data-bbox="787 893 1228 1177"></div> <p><b>Washing Your Mask</b></p>
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	<p>Uplift’s Health Services team strongly recommends laundering your cloth at <u>least every other day</u> when in regular contact with others. It is therefore recommended that employees utilize their own personal masks in addition to the ones provided by Uplift. For additional information on how to properly launder your cloth masks, <a href="#">please follow CDC guidelines</a>.</p> 
<p><b>Symptom Self-Screen</b></p>	<p>Scholars and staff are asked to perform a symptoms checklist daily, prior to leaving home. Individuals experiencing COVID like symptoms should remain home until evaluated by a licensed healthcare provider. Uplift will offer a daily 2-3 question checklist providing individuals an opportunity to report their positive status.</p>
<p><b>Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding)</b></p>	<p>As of the start of the 2021-2022 School Year, Uplift is returning to pre-pandemic classroom spacing and set-up with 3 feet physical distance between students within classrooms when possible. Primary scholars will remain with their classroom group throughout the day, and Secondary scholars will change from period to period. Both Primary and Secondary scholars have the opportunity to eat collectively in the cafés, use gyms, playgrounds, and transition between classes.</p> <p><u>Primary School Desk Spacing-</u> All primary school desks will be spaced 3 feet apart in our classrooms.</p> <p><u>School Lunch-</u> In order to keep scholars 3 feet apart during lunch, children will be put on a rotating schedule where half will eat in the cafeteria on a given day and half will eat in their classroom. Hence, in a given week, scholars might eat in their classroom 3 days and the cafeteria 2 days. For Secondary Scholars, we will do our best to keep them 3 feet apart but realize we have more flexibility because the majority of our secondary scholars can be vaccinated unlike their primary school peers.</p> <p><u>Secondary Lockers-</u> In order to minimize time spent in our hallways during class transitions, we will not allow secondary scholars to use their lockers during the first semester. Scholars will carry what they need to each class in their backpacks which will stay with them throughout the day.</p> <p><u>Primary School Hand Sanitizing Breaks-</u> Our primary schools are building into their daily schedules multiple breaks when scholars will clean/ sanitize their hands. All Secondary classrooms have hand sanitizer and scholars are encouraged to use them throughout the day.</p>
<p><b>Handwashing and Respiratory Etiquette</b></p>	<p><b>Personal Hygiene Measures</b></p>

Uplift has taken steps to provide for enhanced personal hygiene practices. For example, wall-mounted hand sanitizer stations have been added across campuses, and scholars will be provided with access to hand sanitizer bottles throughout the day. In addition, signage will detail the best practices for maintaining exceptional personal hygiene, focusing on handwashing.

### **Handwashing**

Handwashing is particularly effective in preventing the spread of COVID-19 and other respiratory illnesses. Therefore, scholars and staff should wash their hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds as often as possible throughout the day and avoid touching eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands. Where soap and water are unavailable or inconvenient, scholars and staff can apply hand sanitizer.



Teachers/staff should accommodate and encourage proper handwashing wherever possible. Scholars must thoroughly wash hands following CDC handwashing guidelines after using the restroom. Scholars must thoroughly wash or sanitize hands before and after meals. Scholars are prompted to sanitize their hands upon entering the building each day.

Scholars will receive handwashing training upon returning to campus with signage posted, throughout the campus, as helpful reminders.

### **Respiratory Etiquette**

Infection prevention measures are designed to limit the transmission of respiratory pathogens spread by droplet or airborne routes. The following measures will be taken.

- Signage posted asking scholars and staff with respiratory symptoms to:
  - Cover your mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing.
  - Cough or sneeze into a tissue and throw it away
  - Wash your hands or use a hand sanitizer every time you touch your mouth or nose.
- Provide tissues and no-touch receptacles for their disposal.
- Masks are available, upon request, for individuals experiencing respiratory symptoms.
- Encourage individuals with respiratory symptoms to sit away from others when possible.
- Scholars experiencing respiratory symptoms should be assessed by Uplift Health Services or their Primary Care Physician.

***Helpful Reminder:*** Remember to cover coughs and sneezes and wash hands immediately afterward. Cover a cough or sneeze with a tissue when able or your elbow when not. Never cough or sneeze into your hands. Discard any used tissues in the trash and immediately proceed to wash your hands.

<p><b>Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All cleaning solutions and disinfectants have been reviewed and are on the list of CDC-approved cleaning supplies. These supplies are readily available to all custodial staff and third-party cleaning crews tending all Uplift facilities.</li> <li>• Standard cleaning schedules &amp; protocols have been updated such that common areas and high touch areas are more regularly cleaned throughout the day.</li> <li>• Every campus has been equipped with an electrostatic sprayer to be used as needed.</li> <li>• Each classroom has been supplied with spray disinfectant and disinfecting wipes. Teachers and instructional staff have been communicated to be empowered to clean as often as possible to the level of their comfort.</li> <li>• In partnership with a 3<sup>rd</sup> party vendor, we have an established protocol for deploying high-level cleaning and disinfecting on an as needed basis.</li> <li>• Hand sanitizer has been added to our list of campus supplies to keep readily available for scholars, staff, and guests.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Improving Ventilation</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Merv-13 Filters have been installed throughout the network across campuses and are replaced on a quarterly schedule.</li> <li>• Campus building ventilation systems have been adjusted for increased outdoor airflow to improve ventilation in all occupied spaces.</li> </ul>
<p>Contact Tracing  <b>Close Contact</b> any individual who has been inside the 3- 6 feet radius of a COVID-19 infected person for at least 15 minutes, also known as <b>Exposure</b></p>	<p>When applicable, contact tracing may be performed by Uplift Education’s Health Service team in conjunction with the local health authorities.</p>
<p><b>Isolation</b> separating people infected with the virus (those who are sick with COVID-19 and those with no symptoms) from people who are not.</p>	<p>If a person, scholar, or staff, test positive for COVID-19, they must isolate for ten days.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If symptoms are present, day one starts with the day the symptoms began.</li> <li>• If symptoms are <b>not</b> present, day one starts the day the individual took the COVID test, <b>not</b> the day the results returned.</li> </ul> <p><i>During the isolation period, we will send scholars home with a Chromebook and any other learning assignments they can do independently; <u>absence will count as excused.</u></i></p> <p><b>Scholars experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 during the school day</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scholars will be sent to the school clinic and assessed by the school nurse or health service personnel.</li> <li>• Scholars who are ill should be picked up within 30 minutes and no later than 1 hour from when the campus contacted the parent/guardian.</li> <li>• If an individual is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19, the school will notify the local health department following applicable federal, state, and local laws.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Areas of the building that are heavily used by the individual, who is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19, will be deep-cleaned if the individual was present in the past 24 hours.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Returning to work or school after isolation</u></b>  <b>Scholars and staff must meet the following criteria when returning to school or work after testing positive for COVID-19:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must be fever-free for 24 hours or greater (<i>fever is a temperature of 100° Fahrenheit (37.8° Celsius) or higher</i>) without using fever-reducing medication; <b>and</b></li> <li>• Improved symptoms (cough, difficulty breathing, etc.); <b>and</b></li> <li>• Ten days have passed since symptoms began <b>OR</b></li> <li>• Individuals who test positive for COVID-19 but do not have any symptoms must stay home until at least ten days after the day they were tested.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Quarantine</b> keeping someone who might have been exposed to the virus away from others</p>	<p>For individuals who are determined to be close contacts, a 14-day stay-at-home period was previously advised by the CDC based on the incubation period of the virus. CDC has since updated their guidance, and the stay-at-home period can end for students experiencing no symptoms on Day 10 after close contact exposure, if no subsequent COVID-19 testing is performed. Alternately, scholars can end the stay-at-home period if they receive a negative result from a PCR acute infection test after the close contact exposure ends.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If a staff member is identified as a close contact AND is fully vaccinated AND is <u>not</u> showing symptoms, they are <b><u>not required to quarantine</u></b></li> <li>• If a staff member is identified as a close contact AND is fully vaccinated, AND is showing symptoms, they are strongly encouraged to quarantine while they get tested. If the test results are negative, they may return to work. <b>If the test results are positive, Uplift requires staff isolate for ten days and from the sign of the first symptom.</b></li> <li>• If a staff member is identified as a close contact AND is <u>not</u> vaccinated, they are strongly encouraged to quarantine for fourteen days. Quarantine period may be shorten according to the CDC’s guidelines.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Quarantine Exception for Scholars</u></b>  <b>Exception:</b> In the <b>K–12 indoor classroom</b> setting, the close contact definition <i>excludes scholars</i> who were within <b>3 to 6 feet of an infected scholar</b> (laboratory-confirmed or a <a href="#">clinically compatible illness</a>) where</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– both scholars were engaged in <b>consistent and correct use of well-fitting masks; and</b></li> <li>– other <a href="#">K–12 school prevention strategies</a> (such as universal and correct mask use, physical distancing, increased ventilation) were in place in the <b>K–12 school setting.</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>Diagnostic and screening testing</b></p>	<p><b>COVID-19 Testing</b>  Free COVID-19 testing is available during the school day. Uplift offers the following options,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BinaxNOW Rapid Antigen COVID-19 testing is available to all staff and scholars.</li> <li>• PCR lab tests, provided by Collins Medical and Wellness Group, LLC., are available to all scholars, staff, and the community.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Telemedicine is available for scholars 18 years of age and younger. Scholars, teachers, and staff should stay home when they have signs of any infectious illness and be referred to their healthcare provider for testing and care.</li> </ul> <p><i>***When notified of a positive case, Uplift Education Health Services' reports the case to DSHS and TEA</i></p>
<b>Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities</b>	Uplift Education will host monthly COVID-19 vaccination clinics through December 2021. We will monitor community spread to determine clinics for clinics from January 2022 – May 2022.
<b>Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies</b>	People with underlying health conditions are at higher risk for severe disease from COVID-19. When appropriate, partitions will be provided in classrooms where scholars cannot wear a mask if they desire to do so and where physical distancing is impossible. In the self-contained classrooms, staff will be provided with personal protective equipment (PPE).
<b>Continuity of scholar academic needs</b>	Scholars will participate in in-person learning. Positive COVID-19 cases will be addressed individually and should not result in classroom/school closures. Scholars requiring exclusion will be provided a Chromebook and assignments to complete independently.
<b>Communication</b>	Mass communication will not be sent regarding positive cases. In addition, COVID-19 data can be found on the website at <a href="http://www.uplifteducation.org">www.uplifteducation.org</a> .

## COVID-19 Illness Decision Tree

<b>Section 1: <a href="#">Symptom Screening</a> (CDC NNDSS)</b>		<b>Section 2: Close Contact/Potential Exposure</b>	
In the past 24 hours, has the scholar or staff had any of the following symptoms:			
<input type="checkbox"/> Temperature 100 <sup>0</sup> F (37.8° C) or higher ( <a href="#">TX DSHS</a> ) <input type="checkbox"/> <b>New</b> onset of severe Headache <input type="checkbox"/> Chills <input type="checkbox"/> Sore throat <input type="checkbox"/> Fatigue <input type="checkbox"/> <b>New</b> Congestion or Runny Nose <input type="checkbox"/> Nausea or Vomiting <input type="checkbox"/> Diarrhea	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>New</b> loss of taste or smell <input type="checkbox"/> <b>New</b> onset of uncontrolled cough (see school nurse for assessment of scholar) <input type="checkbox"/> Shortness of breath <input type="checkbox"/> Difficulty breathing	<input type="checkbox"/> A. Had close contact (within 3-6 feet for 15 min in 24 hr period) with a person <b>confirmed</b> positive COVID-19 within past 14 days  <p style="text-align: center;"><b>POTENTIAL EXPOSURE</b></p> <input type="checkbox"/> B. Traveled to or lived in an area where the local, Tribal, territorial, or state health department is reporting large numbers of COVID-19 cases within past 14 days  <input type="checkbox"/> C. Currently, live in an area of high community transmission while the school remains open*	

<i>If answers:</i>	<i>Recommend:</i>	<i>When can the scholar return to school?</i>
<p><b>YES – to Section 1 (symptomatic)</b> + <b>NO – to every question in Section 2</b></p>	<p>Excuse from school in accordance with the existing school illness management policy.</p>	<p>If scholar / staff did not take a COVID-19 test, return in accordance with existing <a href="#">Texas Administrative Code</a> and Uplift Education illness management policy (e.g., after symptom-free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medications)</p> <p>If a scholar or staff has a <b>positive COVID-19 test result: (rapid antigen may be accepted for scholars)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Scholar or staff must <u>isolate</u> (stay at home) for 10 days.</b> Must follow the <a href="#">isolation guidance</a> issued by the CDC.</li> <li>• The Health Service Coordinator must report the case to DCHHS and will submit form provided</li> <li>• The scholar or staff may return to school when all 3 of the following criteria are met: (per CDC, DCHHS)               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. At least 24 hours have passed since recovery (resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications); <b>AND</b></li> <li>2. The individual has improvement in symptoms (e.g. cough, shortness of breath); <b>AND</b></li> <li>3. At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared.</li> </ol> </li> <li>• If a scholar have symptoms that could be COVID-19, but they were <b>not evaluated</b> by a medical professional or <b>not tested</b> for COVID-19, the scholar is assumed to have COVID-19 and <b>must not</b> return until the individual has met the same 3 step criteria above (per CDC, DCHHS). See <a href="#">Communicable Disease Chart and Notes for Schools</a></li> <li>• If this scholar wants to return to school <b>before</b> completing the 10 days stay at home, the scholar must either: (a) obtain a medical professional’s note clearing for return based on an <a href="#">alternative diagnosis</a>, or (b) obtain a rapid antigen test for acute COVID-19 infection that is negative. Rapid Antigen and PCR COVID-19 test are available in the clinics on all Uplift campuses. Community testing locations can also be found at: <a href="https://tdem.texas.gov/covid-19/">https://tdem.texas.gov/covid-19/</a></li> </ul>
<p><b>YES – to Section (symptomatic)</b> + <b>YES – to any question in Section 2</b></p>	<p>Refer for evaluation by their healthcare provider and <i>possible</i> testing.</p>	<p>If a scholar has a <b>negative COVID-19 test result</b>, may return to school once their symptoms have otherwise improved in accordance with existing school illness management policies (per CDC and Dallas County Health) <b>i.e. fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medications.</b></p> <p>If a scholar has a <b>positive COVID-19 test result: (rapid antigen may be accepted for scholars)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Scholar or must <u>isolate</u> (stay at home) for 10 days.</b> Must follow the <a href="#">isolation guidance</a> issued by the CDC.</li> <li>• The Health Service Coordinator must report the case to DCHHS and will submit form provided</li> <li>• The scholar may return to school when all 3 of the following criteria are met: (per CDC, DCHHS)               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. At least 24 hours have passed since recovery (resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications); <b>AND</b></li> <li>5. The individual has improvement in symptoms (e.g. cough, shortness of breath); <b>AND</b></li> <li>6. At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared.</li> </ol> </li> <li>• If a scholar has symptoms that could be COVID-19, but they were <b>not evaluated</b> by a medical professional or <b>not tested</b> for COVID-19, the scholar is assumed to have COVID-19 and <b>must not</b> return until the individual has met the same 3 step criteria above (per CDC, DCHHS). See <a href="#">Communicable Disease Chart and Notes for Schools</a></li> <li>• If this scholar wants to return to school <b>before</b> completing the 10 days stay at home, the scholar must either: (a) obtain a medical professional’s note clearing for return based on an <a href="#">alternative diagnosis</a>, or (b) obtain a rapid antigen test for acute COVID-19 infection that is negative. Rapid Antigen and PCR COVID-19 test are available in the clinics on all Uplift campuses. Community testing locations can also be found at: <a href="https://tdem.texas.gov/covid-19/">https://tdem.texas.gov/covid-19/</a></li> </ul>
<i>If answers:</i>	<i>Recommend:</i>	<i>When can the scholar return to school?</i>

<p><b>NO</b> – to every question in Section 1 (<b>asymptomatic</b>) + <b>YES</b> – to question “A” in Section 2 (<b>Close Contact</b>)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parent should inform the School Nurse and Campus Director</li> <li>• Exclusion from campus is possible if the scholar develops symptoms</li> <li>• If the scholar becomes symptomatic on campus, please refer scholar to the nurse for an evaluation.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Asymptomatic, vaccinated scholars or unvaccinated Scholars</b></p> <p>If you have had a positive COVID-19 test within the past 90 days, you will not require quarantine. If symptoms develop, follow CDC’s guidelines to end isolation.</p> <p>Parents of students who are determined to be close contacts of an individual with COVID-19 may opt to keep their scholar at home during the recommended stay-at-home period. For individuals who are determined to be close contacts, a 14-day stay-at-home period was previously advised by the CDC based on the incubation period of the virus. CDC has since updated their guidance, and the stay-at-home period can end for students experiencing no symptoms on Day 10 after close contact exposure, if no subsequent COVID-19 testing is performed. Scholars will be provided with a Chromebook and independent work during the quarantine period. <u>Absence will be counted as excused.</u></p> <p><i>***Per the CDC, even if you are fully vaccinated, as of July 2021, it is recommended that you should get tested 3-5 days after your exposure, even if you don't have symptoms. You should also wear a mask indoors in public for 14 days following exposure or until your test result is negative. You should isolate for 10 days if your test result is positive.</i></p>
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**CDC’s definition:** “Close Contact through Proximity and Duration of Exposure: Someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person (laboratory-confirmed or a clinically compatible illness) for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period. An infected person can spread SARS-CoV-2 starting from 2 days before they have any symptoms (or, for asymptomatic patients, 2 days before the positive specimen collection date), until they meet criteria for discontinuing home isolation. **Exception:** In the **K–12 indoor classroom** setting, the close contact definition excludes scholars who were within 3 to 6 feet of an infected scholar (laboratory-confirmed or a clinically compatible illness) if both scholars correctly and consistently wore well-fitting masks the entire time. This exception does not apply to teachers, staff, or other adults in the indoor classroom setting.”

Brief interactions are less likely to result in transmission; however, symptoms and the type of interaction (e.g., did the infected person cough directly into the face of the exposed individual) remain important.

*Report positive cases to DCHHS by email to [SchoolHealth@dallascounty.org](mailto:SchoolHealth@dallascounty.org)*