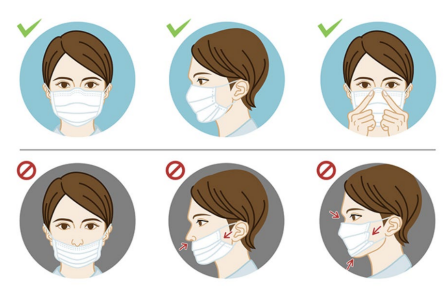
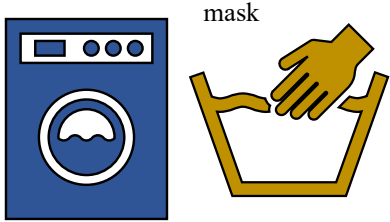


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**Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Service Plan**

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.

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| <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 encouraged to do a symptoms checklist daily, prior to leaving home. Individuals experiencing COVID like symptoms should remain home until evaluated by a licensed healthcare provider. All scholars and staff who may be experiencing COVID-19 like symptoms are encouraged to notify the nurse at <a href="mailto:nurse@uplifteducation.org">nurse@uplifteducation.org</a>.</p>   |
| <p><b>Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding)</b></p> | <p>Primary School Desk Spacing- We encourage all primary school desks to be spaced 3 feet apart in our classrooms.</p> <p>Secondary Lockers- 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> <hr/> <p>Primary School Hand Sanitizing Breaks- Our primary schools are building into their daily schedules multiple <u>breaks when scholars</u> will clean/ sanitize their hands. All Secondary classrooms have hand sanitizer and scholars are encouraged to use them throughout the day (continued practice).</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.

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| <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<br/> <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 cumulative over a 24-hour period, 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> |

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|  | <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><br/> <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>If you were exposed to COVID-19 and are up to date on COVID-19 vaccinations, you do not need to stay home unless you develop symptoms.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If a scholar/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 scholar/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/school. <b>If the test results are positive, Uplift requires staff isolate for ten days and from the sign of the first symptom. Scholars will attend ConnectED, our virtual learning platform during the ten day isolation.</b></li> <li>• If a scholar/staff member is identified as a close contact AND is <u>not</u> vaccinated, they are strongly encouraged to quarantine for ten days. Quarantine period may be shorten according to the CDC’s guidelines.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Quarantine Exception for Scholars</u></b></p> <p><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><br/> 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>  |

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|   | <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, assignments to complete independently, and access to ConnectED, our virtual learning platform.   |
| <b>Communication</b>  | Mass communication will not be sent regarding positive cases. In addition, COVID-19 data can be found on the COVID-19 dashboard located on our website at <a href="http://www.uplifteducation.org">www.uplifteducation.org</a> .   |
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