



# The University School

Health and Safety Plan 2021-2022

**Important Phone Numbers:**

The University School: (412) 361-7182

Mrs. Lockerman: (412) 600-3775 (cell)

# Letter from Our Head of School

Dear University School Community,

For the 2021-2022 school year, The University School plans a full 5-day in-person return to school. Our goal for this year is to resume our typical school experience as much as possible. ***While Allegheny County is at a high level of community transmission of COVID-19, masks are required, regardless of vaccination status.*** Remote instruction will only be an option for students who have been diagnosed with COVID-19 or who have been exposed to COVID-19. Students cannot attend school online for any other reason.

We anticipate that we will continue to receive new guidelines to keep our community safe. We also expect times of uncertainty and unexpected changes as the school year progresses.

Please contact me at (412) 361-7182 or [nlockerman@universityschoolpgh.org](mailto:nlockerman@universityschoolpgh.org) if you have any questions or concerns. We look forward to the 2021-2022 school year!

Sincerely,

Nicole A. Lockerman, MAT  
Head of School  
The University School



# Community Expectations

All members of The University School share the responsibility in preventing the spread of the coronavirus. We expect that all members of our school community will abide by the guidelines based on the recommendations of the CDC, the PA Department of Education, and the Allegheny County Health Department. ***These guidelines are necessary to keep our community safe.***

The University School Students, Staff, and Families promise to do their part in keeping our school safe by abiding by:

## **HEALTH GUIDANCE**

We will follow the recommendations set forth by the CDC, the PA Department of Health, and the Allegheny Health Department. This includes but is not limited to adherence to the travel advisory, social and physical distancing, and wearing face coverings in the community. ***Our school will modify policies to adhere to new mandates.***

## **HYGIENE**

We will practice and reinforce good hygiene practices at home, in the community, and school.

## **DAILY HEALTH SCREENINGS**

We ask that anyone who is sick, or lives in a home with someone who is ill, please stay at home. If you have been exposed to COVID-19, regardless of vaccination status, please stay at home and contact the Head of School.

## **FACE COVERINGS**

Masks are required for all students and staff regardless of vaccination status.

## **TRAVEL GUIDANCE**

We will abide by the guidelines established by the CDC and Pennsylvania Department of Health.

## **COVID-19 EXPOSURE**

Notify the school if someone in your household has been exposed to COVID-19 or tests positive for the coronavirus.

We appreciate your commitment to these expectations. We believe that these actions are necessary to reopen the school for in-person instruction. Those who fail to comply with our policies will be dismissed from The University School.



## Health and Safety Plan Summary

How will the LEA, to the greatest extent practicable, support prevention and mitigation policies in line with the most up-to-date guidance from the CDC for the reopening and operation of school facilities in order to continuously and safely open and operate schools for in-person learning?

- a. The University School will follow the most up-to-date guidance from the CDC, including the recommendation that all individuals wear a mask regardless of vaccination status.
  - b. The University School strongly encourages staff and students to be vaccinated. Currently, 96% of our school community is vaccinated.
  - c. The University School will follow the recommendation that students maintain 3 ft (or more) of physical distance between students within classrooms to reduce the transmission risk.
  - d. Students, teachers, and staff should stay home when they have signs of any infectious illness and be referred to a healthcare provider for testing and care.
  - e. Ventilation throughout the school will be optimized.
  - f. Sanitation centers are located outside of each classroom and teachers will disinfect desks between classes.
  - g. Following CDC guidance, we recommend that any student or staff who have a known exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 to be tested 3-5 days after exposure, regardless of whether they have symptoms.
2. How will the LEA ensure continuity of services, including but not limited to services to address the students' academic needs, and students' and staff members' social, emotional, mental health, and other needs, which may include student health and food services?
- a. The University School will continue to operate in-person, 5 days per week. We will offer remote instruction only to those students who have a confirmed case of COVID-19 or if a student has been exposed to COVID-10 or suspects exposure.
  - b. The University School school psychologist will continue to provide 10 hours/week of support services to our students. These hours can increase based on need.
3. Use the table below to explain how the LEA will maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other staff and the extent to which it has adopted policies, and



a description of any such policy on each of the following safety recommendations established by the CDC.

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
<p>a. <b>Universal and correct wearing of <u>masks</u>;</b></p>	<p>All students and staff, regardless of vaccination status, are required to wear a mask (with the exception of lunch). We will adjust this policy should Allegheny County return to low transmission.</p>
<p>b. <b>Modifying facilities to allow for <u>physical distancing</u> (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);</b></p>	<p>All students will attend school in-person, 5 days/week. As our class sizes are limited to 4/5 students per class, we are able to maintain physical distancing without modifying our existing classrooms or common space. Students will be at least 3 ft from one another. Classes will be held outside when weather permits.</p>
<p>a. <b><u>Handwashing and respiratory etiquette</u>;</b></p>	<p>Keeping hands clean is especially important to prevent the spread of disease. Sanitation centers are available throughout the building.</p>
<p>a. <b><u>Cleaning</u> and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving <u>ventilation</u>;</b></p>	<p>Maintaining a clean and healthy facility is a priority. Teachers will wipe desks and doorknobs between classes and our facility will be cleaned daily, with a deep clean on Wednesday afternoons. When all safety standards can be met, windows will remain open and classes will be held outside.</p>
<p>a. <b><u>Contact tracing</u> in combination with <u>isolation</u> and <u>quarantine</u>, in collaboration with the State and local health departments;</b></p>	<p>We have received vaccination records from all families. Three students are not vaccinated. In the event of an exposure, we will notify the IU who will assist us in contact tracing. We will prioritize unvaccinated individuals immediately and follow up with the rest of our community regarding the risk.</p>



<p>a. <b><u>Diagnostic</u> and screening testing;</b></p>	<p>Teachers and students should self-monitor symptoms and screen for symptoms prior to attending school. Anyone who is not feeling well should stay home from school.</p>
<p>g. <b>Efforts to provide <u>vaccinations to school communities</u>;</b></p>	<p>Our school continues to encourage students to receive the COVID-19 vaccine.</p>
<p>h. <b>Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and</b></p>	<p>We will provide appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities. Currently, several of our students have a mental health diagnosis. We will provide supportive services to address their specific needs.</p>
<p>i. <b>Coordination with state and local health officials.</b></p>	<p>We will coordinate with the Allegheny Health Department and the IU if there is a confirmed case of COVID-19 in our school. Our school has 35 students and 14 staff.</p>



# FAQ's COVID-19 Protocol

## **What happens if a student or teacher is showing symptoms of COVID-19?**

95% of our school community is vaccinated. However, regardless of vaccination status, individuals showing symptoms of COVID-19 will not be allowed in the school building. Symptoms include cough, fever, and shortness of breath. TUS encourages individuals who are showing symptoms to speak to a doctor about being tested for COVID-19. Individuals may not return to the building until test results are returned and are negative, or if they have been symptom-free for 10 days.

## **What happens if a teacher or student is symptom-free but is awaiting a test result or is quarantining after potential exposure?**

Anyone who is awaiting results from a COVID-19 test will not be permitted into the school building until the test results are confirmed as negative. Remote instruction will be available to students who are unable to attend school due to COVID-19.

## **What happens when there is a confirmed case of COVID-19 in our school?**

We have strict guidelines from the CDC that we must follow. If the individual tests positive for COVID-19, TUS will notify the Allegheny County Health Department and follow their guidance regarding school closure, who must quarantine and for how long, and whether the instructional operation model must change. All families will be notified via email and telephone.

## **What happens if a student or teacher begins to develop symptoms of COVID-19 during the day?**

The individual will be quarantined and the area will be disinfected and closed off to the public. TUS will notify AHD for guidance (see above).

## **What happens if a known COVID-19 case is confirmed in a student or staff member's household?**

If there is a known COVID-19 case in a student or staff member's household, the family should contact the Head of School immediately. Action will be taken as necessary based on guidance from the Allegheny County Health Department. Please refer to the steps outlined in the document When There is a Confirmed Case.

## **What happens if a student tests positive for COVID-19?**

Students will not be penalized for missing school due to COVID-19 and will have the option to attend classes remotely if they are well enough to attend online classes.



**What happens if the incidence of COVID-19 increases in Allegheny County?**

TUS will continue to consult with appropriate authorities, such as the CDC, ACHD and Pennsylvania Department of Education, and monitor local, state, and federal guidelines to make informed decisions about the instructional format. If necessary, cohort models, hybrid instruction, and virtual instruction will be considered.

