



**UTICA
COMMUNITY
SCHOOLS**

Return to Learn and Continuity of Services Plan 2023-2024

Utica Community Schools will continue to provide in-person learning for all students and a virtual option for students in grades 3-12, for interested families, during the 2023-2024 school year. All students will continue to be assigned a computer for use in school and at home.

This Return to Learn and Continuity of Services Plan has been prepared to meet the requirements under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 and the use of Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) III funds. The plan is intended to provide high quality learning experiences for all students and carry out district operations in support of the whole child. The design of the plan enables the district to remain agile and continue student learning while responding to changes in community health trends. Periodically, but not more than every six months during the life of the grant, the plan will be reviewed, and updates will be completed, if deemed necessary.

The plan includes a description of the ways Utica Community Schools will maintain the health and safety of students related to the CDC's safety recommendations including handwashing and respiratory etiquette, cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, and health and safety protocols determined in collaboration with the Macomb County Health Department. The CDC will determine the COVID-19 community level for Macomb County. Based on the community COVID-19 level, in consultation with the Macomb County Health Department, Utica Community Schools will determine the appropriate mitigation strategies to continue student learning while supporting the health and safety of students, their families, and staff.

The district will comply with any and all local, state, and federal mandates/orders.

The following plan outlines measures for the CDC COVID-19 Community Levels of low, medium, and high.

LOW

MEDIUM

HIGH

Resources:

[Macomb County Health Department COVID-19 Guidelines for K-12 School Settings](#)

[MDE and MDHHS "Managing Communicable Diseases in Schools"](#)

Recommended Prevention/Mitigation Strategies:

LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH
Instructional Format		
In-person learning for all students and a virtual option, for interested families.	In-person learning for all students and a virtual option, for interested families.	In-person instruction will occur, but some classes, grades, or schools may temporarily be moved to remote instruction if determined necessary by the district to mitigate in-school spread.
Athletics		
Athletic practices and competitions will be permitted. Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) guidelines will be followed.	Athletic practices and competitions will be permitted. MHSAA guidelines will be followed.	Athletic practices and competitions will be permitted, and additional health and safety protocols as determined by the district may be put into place for practices, competitions, and for fans attending competitions. MHSAA guidelines will be followed.
<i>Athletic testing will not be required unless mandated by the MHSAA or a local or state agency and/or a sanctioning body.</i>		
Cleaning		
The district will follow regular cleaning and disinfection procedures.	The district will follow regular cleaning and disinfection procedures.	The district will follow regular cleaning and disinfection procedures. Additional cleaning and disinfecting procedures may be implemented in classrooms, large group spaces, and on buses, as necessary.
Cohorting		
Mixing of students will not be restricted.	Mixing of students will not be restricted.	Mixing of students may be restricted in some areas, activities, classrooms, and/or buildings.
COVID-19 Testing		
Testing will not be required but may be offered to families.		

LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH
Extracurricular and Field Trips		
Extracurricular activities may occur as scheduled.	Extracurricular activities may occur as scheduled.	Extracurricular activities may occur as scheduled. Extracurricular activities and field trips may be paused, as necessary.
Face Coverings (Masks)		
Staff, students, volunteers, and visitors are recommended to wear face masks if unvaccinated and/or immunocompromised.	Staff, students, volunteers, and visitors are recommended to wear face masks if unvaccinated and/or immunocompromised.	Staff, students, volunteers, and visitors are recommended to wear face masks in all areas and for all activities. District may choose to require masks in individual classrooms or schools to mitigate in-school spread.
Food Service		
Normal foodservice operations will occur.	Normal food service operations will occur.	Normal food service operations will occur. Additional health and safety protocols may be put in place as necessary to mitigate in-school spread.
Gathering and Facility Use		
No restrictions on gatherings or use of facilities.	No restrictions on gatherings or use of facilities.	Restrictions on gathering size and/or use of facilities may be implemented. Use of facilities by outside organizations may be restricted.
Hand Hygiene and Respiratory Etiquette		
Hand hygiene/hand sanitation and respiratory etiquette are expected.	Hand hygiene/hand sanitation and respiratory etiquette are expected.	Hand hygiene/hand sanitation and respiratory etiquette are expected.
Isolation and Quarantine		
<p>The District will follow the current guidance from the Macomb County Health Department Macomb County Health Department COVID-19 Guidelines for K-12 School Settings</p>		

LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH
Meetings and Conferences		
In-district/out-of-district meetings and conferences will be permitted.	In-district/out-of-district meetings and conferences will be permitted.	In-district/out-of-district meetings and conferences may be restricted to mitigate spread.
Offices		
District and building offices will be open for normal school business. Visitors and guests are allowed in buildings per district policy.	District and building offices will be open for normal school business. Visitors and guests are allowed in buildings per district policy.	District and building offices will be open for normal school business. Additional health and safety protocols may be put in place to mitigate in-school spread. Entry by visitors and guests may be restricted.
Remote/Virtual Learning		
In-person learning for all students and a virtual option, for interested families.	In-person learning for all students and a virtual option, for interested families.	In-person instruction will occur, but some classes, grades, or schools may temporarily be moved to remote instruction if determined necessary by the district to mitigate in-school spread. Students enrolled in the Virtual Academy will continue regular programming.
Social Distancing		
Social distancing measures are not required.	Social distancing measures are not required.	Social distancing measures may be implemented to the extent practicable to mitigate in-school spread. Adjustments to school procedures, schedules, activities, etc., may be made to adjust to the social distancing requirements.
Health Screening		
Parents/guardians should conduct a daily student wellness check prior to sending students to school. DO NOT SEND STUDENTS TO SCHOOL IF THEY ARE SICK. See the student illness section.		

LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH
Student Illness		
<p>COVID-19 Self-Screening To promote a safe school environment for all, students and staff are asked to follow the COVID-19 self-screening process each day before arriving at school.</p> <p>Persons with COVID-19 Students and staff who test positive for COVID-19 (PCR or antigen test) or who display COVID-19 symptoms (without an alternative diagnosis or negative COVID-19 test) should isolate at home regardless of vaccination status. Possible symptoms of COVID-19 include the following: fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea. These symptoms should be new or different/worse than baseline for any existing chronic illness. Individuals testing negative for COVID-19 can end their isolation.</p> <p>Students and staff testing positive for COVID-19 should stay home for at least 5 days and isolate from others in their home. Students and staff may return to school/work if: at least 5 days have passed since symptom onset <u>and</u> at least 24 hours have passed since resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications <u>and</u> other symptoms have improved (loss of taste and smell may last for weeks or months and need not delay the end of isolation). Students and staff who never had symptoms but who test positive for COVID-19 may return to school/work if at least 5 days have passed since the date of their first positive COVID-19 test (provided no symptoms appeared during the 5-day period). Day zero (0) is the day of symptom onset or the day the positive test specimen was collected (if there were no symptoms). The isolation period ends at midnight on the last day of the isolation period. The last day of isolation is usually day 5 but may be a later day if symptoms have not improved or fever has not resolved for at least 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication. After you have ended isolation, wear your mask through day 10, or, if you have access to antigen tests, you should consider using them. With two sequential negative tests 48 hours apart, you may remove your mask sooner than day 10.</p>		
Transportation		
Normal transportation operations will occur.	Normal transportation operations will occur.	Normal transportation operations will occur. Additional health and safety protocols may be put in place to mitigate spread.
Vaccinations		
The district is not requiring staff or students to be vaccinated. MCHD, MDHHS, and CDC recommend COVID-19 vaccination as the leading public health prevention strategy to end the COVID-19 pandemic as well as keep schools, extracurricular activities, and sports safely operational and in person.		