



**UTICA
COMMUNITY
SCHOOLS**

Return to Learn and Continuity of Services Plan 2024-2025

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 2024-2025 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 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's updated respiratory virus prevention strategies including handwashing and respiratory etiquette, cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, and health and safety protocols determined in collaboration with the Macomb County Health Department. Based on the CDC's Respiratory Virus Guidance and 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 Resources for Schools](#)

[Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Respiratory Virus Guidance](#)

Recommended Prevention/Mitigation Strategies:

LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH
Instructional Format		
In-person learning for all students and a virtual option, for interested families with students in grades 3-12.	In-person learning for all students and a virtual option, for interested families with students in grades 3-12.	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.
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. Additional health and safety protocols, as determined by the district, may be put into place for practices, competitions, and for fans attending competitions as needed based on local conditions. MHSAA guidelines will be followed.
<i>Athletic testing will not be required unless mandated by the MHSAA or a local, state, or federal 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 will be implemented in classrooms, large group spaces, and on buses, as needed based on local conditions.
Cohorting		
Mixing of students will be permitted.	Mixing of students will be permitted.	Mixing of students may be temporarily restricted in some areas, activities, classrooms, and/or buildings as deemed necessary based on local conditions.

LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH
COVID-19 Testing		
Testing will not be required but test kits may be offered to families if provided by federal, state, or local health agencies.		
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 needed, based on local conditions.
Face Coverings (Masks)		
Staff, students, volunteers, and visitors may choose to wear a face covering regardless of the current level of community transmission. The district will abide by all laws, lawfully executed orders, regulations, etc., pertaining to facial coverings.	Staff, students, volunteers, and visitors may choose to wear a face covering regardless of the current level of community transmission. The district will abide by all laws, lawfully executed orders, regulations, etc., pertaining to facial coverings.	Staff, students, volunteers, and visitors may choose to wear a face covering regardless of the current level of community transmission. The district may choose to require masks in individual classrooms or schools to mitigate in-school spread. The district will abide by all laws, lawfully executed orders, regulations, etc., pertaining to facial coverings.
Food Service		
Normal food service 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.

LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH
Hand Hygiene and Respiratory Etiquette		
Proper hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette are expected. Supplies will be maintained in order to facilitate proper hand hygiene.		
Isolation and Quarantine		
The district encourages parents/guardians to follow current medical professional and/or Macomb County Health Department guidance regarding exclusion periods for communicable diseases. The district will follow current mandates/orders from federal, state, or local health agencies. Macomb County Health Department COVID-19 Resources for Schools		
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 as needed based on local conditions.
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.
Distancing		
Distancing measures are not required.	Distancing measures are not required.	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 promote distancing.

LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH
Health Screening & Student Illness		
<p>Parents/guardians are encouraged to conduct a daily wellness check prior to sending students to school. Students should not be sent to school when they are ill. A child should not return to school after an illness until a period of at least 24 hours where their symptoms are getting better overall and they have been fever-free without the use of fever-reducing medication. Parents/guardians should follow medical professional and/or health department guidance regarding exclusion periods for communicable diseases.</p> <p>All individuals are asked to stay home and away from others (including people in the same household who are not sick) when experiencing respiratory virus symptoms that are not better explained by another cause. Symptoms may include but are not limited to chest discomfort, chills, cough, decrease in appetite, diarrhea, fatigue (tiredness), fever or feeling feverish, headache, muscle or body aches, new loss of taste or smell, runny or stuffy nose, sneezing, sore throat, vomiting, weakness, wheezing. All individuals are encouraged to follow the return to school guidance listed above.</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		
<p>The district is not requiring staff or students to be vaccinated. The Macomb County Health Department, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention 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.</p>		