

Pandemic Preparedness

2022-2023 Health, Safety and Loving Learning



Guiding Principles

Health, safety and *loving learning*

Navigating these last two years of the pandemic, our decision making has been guided by these principles:

- Protect the health, safety and well-being of students and staff
- Uphold our school's mission, philosophy and core values
- Prioritize in-person learning over remote learning whenever it is safe to do so
- Utilize CDC, WHO, AAP, state and local health department guidelines*

*We are committed to academic excellence;
independence in thought and action;
critical and collaborative thinking;
and compassion and respect
for self, community and the world.*

~ from our Mission Statement



Our Planning Team

Our Board of Directors appointed a Crisis Response Team in March, 2020, as a temporary working group established to provide oversight and support for pandemic planning. This team consists of parents and board members, including our Board President and Treasurer, our Head of School and Business Officer. Additionally, a UMS parent with expertise as an Infection Preventionist at one of Tulsa's major hospitals, and direct experience in the hospital's COVID-19 response throughout the pandemic, serves the team in an advisory capacity.

Our planning process takes into consideration input from staff, consultation with the Tulsa Health Department, and independent school leadership in the Tulsa area and across the country. Additionally, we have access to a growing body of resources available through professional organizations with which we are affiliated, including the American Montessori Society. We will continue to rely upon these valuable resources and partnerships, which have been instrumental to our success to date, safeguarding the health and well being of our students and staff throughout the pandemic.

Our Campus

A Prepared Environment



Campus Readiness

As a Montessori school, many of our regular practices align with COVID guidelines for schools. Students are accustomed to walking into school independently during morning carpool. Our classes function as self-contained communities, eating lunch together in their rooms each day, and rotating through enrichment specials as a class cohort in small groups. The sizes of our classrooms, each with an adjacent outdoor classroom, provide plenty of space for students to spread out.

Gardens and Patios

To facilitate expanded use of class gardens and patios, increasing available space for each class, we invested in making our 'outdoor classroom' spaces more comfortable.

- Ceiling fans and heating units installed in covered patios adjacent to all classrooms
- Closed roofing added to east building pergolas
- Scheduled mosquito control during the season

Enhanced Sanitizing Measures

- EPA-approved cleaning/sanitizing and disinfecting supplies are well stocked
- Facilities are thoroughly cleaned and sanitized every evening
- Scheduled mid-day sanitizing of all high touch areas throughout campus daily
- Guides and students (as appropriate) share daily responsibility for sanitizing tables, chairs, learning materials, IT equipment and other high touch surfaces in their classrooms
- Electrostatic disinfecting spray in response to rise in cases of COVID-19 in our community
- Buses sanitized weekly

Ventilation

- Individual HVAC units for each classroom draw fresh air into the rooms continuously during the day
- Windows and doors will be partially opened, weather permitting, to enhance fresh air ventilation

Water Fountains

- Drinking spouts on water fountains have been disabled and replaced with water bottle filling stations



* CDC—Centers for Disease Control

WHO—World Health Organization

AAP—American Academy of Pediatrics

THD—Tulsa Health Department



Health and Wellness

In partnership with our families

Keeping our Community Healthy—Family and School Partnership

Families are important partners in our work to reduce the spread of communicable disease at school. Please keep your child home and contact your physician if your child is ill; has a temperature at or above 100° F; or is experiencing [COVID like symptoms](#).

When Students Become Ill at School

Children who become ill at school will be provided a disposable face mask and brought to the office where a room has been set up for the child to rest while waiting to be picked up.

Vaccination

COVID-19 vaccination is effective in protecting children and adults against serious illness. This school year will be the first since the start of the pandemic that vaccination is available to our entire student population. Undercroft encourages, but does not require, vaccination for students and staff. The vast majority of our staff have taken this step.



Face Coverings

Wearing N95 and KN95 masks in indoor spaces reduces the risk of transmission of COVID-19, and students and staff may wish to use face coverings at school, particularly during times of high community transmission.

As we begin a new school year, students and their families, as well as staff, are not required to wear face coverings at school except at prescribed times following a COVID infection or exposure. We will support all students in correct use of face coverings in school when either they or their parents wish to use them indoors.

Vendors and visitors to campus who are not part of the Undercroft community will be asked to wear face coverings indoors, particularly during times of high community transmission.

These practices are subject to change based on changing guidance and practical experience.

Hygiene and Practical Life

Personal hygiene is an important strategy to reduce the spread of respiratory viruses, including COVID-19. Frequent hand washing/sanitizing, coughing/sneezing into elbows, blowing noses into Kleenex and disposing of the Kleenex will all be emphasized through lessons and reminders until these practices are internalized. Parents can help by supporting development of these skills at home.

Health and Wellness

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When Students are Exposed or Test Positive for COVID

If your child tests positive for COVID:

- Please keep your child home for five full days from the onset of symptoms, or if asymptomatic, the date the test was administered. The first day is day 0. Your child will be eligible to return to school on the sixth day if their symptoms have improved and they have been fever free for at least 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medications. Elementary through middle school students will be required to wear a well-fitted face covering indoors for five days after their five day isolation is complete.
- Please contact Head of School, Nancy Davis, to report the positive test result, either by email at nancy.davis@undercroft.org, or phone at 918-622-2890.

If your child has been exposed to COVID by a member of the household:

- As long as your child remains symptom free and has had a negative COVID test, they may attend school. Elementary through middle school students will be required to wear a well-fitted face covering indoors for 7 days following the exposure with a negative COVID test on day seven; or wear a well-fitted face covering for 10 days with no requirement for a COVID test.
- Please contact Head of School, Nancy Davis, to report in-home exposures, either by email at nancy.davis@undercroft.org, or phone at 918-622-2890.



Notifications of exposures on campus:

- Potential exposures on campus are determined when the school receives a report of an individual who has tested positive for COVID and has been in school up to 48 hours prior to their positive test or onset of symptoms.
- Undercroft will notify parents by email if there has been a potential exposure in their child's classroom community.

