



2021-22 COVID-19 Guidelines

University Middle School's plan for protecting our students, faculty, and families is a living document that will be monitored and re-evaluated as deemed necessary based on CDC, Shelby County Health Department, State of Tennessee, and University of Memphis guidelines and University Middle transmission rates. Parents will be notified of any changes to this policy.

In accordance with the most current [CDC recommendations](#) University Middle has developed the following protocols:

Prevention Guidelines

University Middle is a public school therefore; therefore vaccination requirements must comply with State of Tennessee policy. At this time, the state has not required student or staff to receive COVID-19 vaccinations. As such, University Middle cannot require eligible students or staff to be vaccinated. University Schools will not require COVID-19 tests or vaccinations for teachers or students prior to the start of school. While we acknowledge that testing and vaccination are essential tools in the epidemiological response to the pandemic, these practices are solidly in the domain of health professionals, not the school. We will monitor that people inside our schools and office buildings are symptom-free and will strongly encourage all students and staff who are not feeling well to stay at home.

In compliance with local health department directives and in accordance with the most [recent CDC recommendations](#), University Middle will begin the school year requiring all University Schools faculty, staff, students, and guests to wear masks while on school grounds regardless of vaccination status.

Students should bring at least 2 masks (disposable or reusable) to school per day. Appropriate mask wearing procedures will be shared with students and reinforced in school.

All parents, family members, and visitors should follow the CDC's guidance for mask wearing while on school grounds including during pick up and drop off, meetings, and school events. University Middle and all related programs will layer multiple [prevention strategies](#) to help slow the spread of the virus that causes COVID-19.

Students must still submit proof of state required immunizations as outlined in the Family Handbook, but this immunization does not include vaccination for COVID-19.



Temperature Screenings

In accordance with the most current [CDC recommendations](#), we strongly encourage parents and guardians to monitor their children for [symptoms of infectious illness](#) at home, including a temperature of 100.4 or greater

Masks

In accordance with the most [recent CDC recommendations](#), and local health department directives, University Middle will require all University Schools faculty, staff, students, and guests to wear masks while on school grounds regardless of vaccination status.

The following will serve as guidelines for mask wearing:

- All students may remove their masks while eating during lunch.
- Students in band, choir, P.E., and theater will remove their masks for instruction when socially distanced in class.
- All faculty, staff, and students should wear well-fitting [cloth masks](#) with two or more layers of tightly woven, breathable fabric, or [disposable masks](#).
- Students should bring at least 2 masks (disposable or reusable) to school per day. The school has a supply of extra masks on hand that may be used when students or staff are without a clean, usable mask.
- School staff will teach and reinforce [consistent and correct](#) use of masks. Faculty, staff, and students should wear masks over the nose and mouth.
- Faculty, staff, and students should store masks properly and for reusable masks, wash them regularly to keep them clean.
- All individuals are encouraged to [remove masks correctly](#) and wash hands with soap and water or use hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol after touching or removing a mask.
- Masks should be stored in a safe location to keep them clean, such as in a pocket or backpack. When reusing a mask after a break, keep the same side should be kept facing out.

Hand Sanitizing and Washing

Every classroom and office will be supplied with hand sanitizer and alcohol wipes. Students will be encouraged to sanitize their hands when entering and exiting class. There are hand washing stations on each floor of the building, outside of the restrooms. Students will be encouraged to wash their hands frequently. There is a hand washing station outside of the cafeteria. Students will be required to wash their hands before entering the cafeteria.

COVID-19 Testing

If available, routine [screening testing](#) can help to identify cases of COVID-19 in asymptomatic or pre-symptomatic people, and prevent secondary transmission.



Faculty, staff, or students who display symptoms of infectious illness during the school day will be required to leave school and provide a negative COVID test result before returning to school, at the discretion of the school admin. The school nurse or office coordinator will contact parents if COVID testing is necessary.

Symptomatic Students

Students who become [symptomatic](#) during the school day will be isolated in the designated quarantine zone with a staff member until parents arrive. Parents will be required to pick up their child within 30 minutes of initial contact. Students who are sent home may return to school only with a written release from a physician to return to school or after symptoms are gone and the student has been fever free for 24 hours without medication.

University Middle will follow UofM and CDC guidelines if an infected person has been in a school building. These guidelines include measures for contact tracing, communications, disinfecting/sanitization, and potential closure of a classroom or school facility.

If a Student, Faculty, or Staff Member Tests Positive

It is imperative to community health that the school leadership be made aware of any student or staff member that has tested positive for COVID-19. All staff and students can be assured of confidentiality and privacy when reporting their positive test results to the school director. The school will follow all current CDC, and health department guidance on what to do when students or staff exhibit symptoms and when a case is suspected/confirmed.

Students or staff who exhibit symptoms will be directed home to self-isolate and seek medical attention, as necessary. Positive or suspected cases will be confirmed with the local Health Department who will assist with developing recommended next steps based on the level of potential exposure.

School administrators will [take action](#) to [isolate](#) people who begin to have symptoms from other children and staff. Designated isolation areas will be used to isolate a sick student or staff member. The school will ensure that isolated children are still under adult supervision. The school will close off areas used by a sick person and will not use these areas until after [cleaning and disinfecting](#) them; this includes surfaces or shared objects in the area, if applicable. Within the first 24 hours after the sick person has been in the space cleaning and disinfecting will occur.

Staff members or students who test positive for COVID-19 should not return to school until they have met CDC's [recommendations to discontinue home isolation](#). Students will not be marked absent if their absence is due to exposure to COVID-19. Once the affected individual



has met all the CDC criteria for ending isolation, then no additional testing is needed to return to the facility.

Quarantine Guidelines

If a staff member or a student is determined to be a [close contact](#) to an individual who has tested positive for COVID-19, the following protocols must be observed:

- Fully vaccinated close contacts should be referred for COVID-19 [testing](#). If asymptomatic, fully vaccinated close contacts do not need to quarantine at home following an exposure (they can continue to attend school in-person and participate in other activities). In addition to correctly wearing masks in school, they should wear a mask in other indoor public settings for 14 days or until they receive a negative test result.
- Close contacts who are not fully vaccinated should be referred for COVID-19 [testing](#). Regardless of test result, they should quarantine at home for 14 days after exposure. [Options to shorten quarantine](#) provide acceptable alternatives of a 10-day quarantine or a 7-day quarantine combined with testing and a negative test result.

Visitors

In compliance with local health directives, visitors will be required to wear a mask while on school grounds. Non-essential visitors will continue to be minimized in an effort to reduce risk of outside exposure. Any visitor admitted into the school must check in at the front office to request admittance and may be screened for signs of illness or history of exposure. Any visitor exhibiting one or more of the following will not be admitted to the facility:

- Temperature reading of 100.4 or above
- Any [signs of illness](#)
- Known recent exposure

Any requests for in-person academic or research-based observation must be submitted to the director in advance for approval. No observers will be admitted into the building without director approval. Any approved observations must be conducted from a distance of at least 6 feet from all school staff and students at all times. Visitors must follow campus mask policies while on-site. Any visitor diagnosed with COVID-19 should inform the school as soon as possible, [isolate](#), and may not return to the school until [requirements for end of isolation are met](#).

Cleaning, Sanitization, and ventilation of University Middle Facility

All cleaning and disinfecting procedures will follow [CDC guidelines](#) for recommended practices. Indoor spaces will undergo sanitization treatment using the [Clorox Total 360 Electrostatic Sprayer System](#) each night.



Deep cleaning will occur between student departure and arrival and cleaning will occur consistently throughout the day by assigned facilities staff members who have been trained in preventative disinfectant measures. University Middle teachers will have access to CDC approved disinfectant and hand sanitizer and frequent hand washing will be required.

Communications

Our goal is to provide transparent communication to all stakeholders of the University Middle Community. To assist in clear, transparent communication we ask our school community to support the following:

- Check your email regularly for updates. If you do not receive school emails, contact the school administration.
- Contact your school director when you have questions about school operations, COVID-19 strategies, or need to report a potential exposure.

Student Support

- Communicate with your school counselor and your child's teacher if you need additional supports or referrals to support your child's academic, social, and emotional needs during this time of transition back into in person learning.

Community Building Activities, Before and After School Programs, UMPN Events

- University Middle will return to in-person community building events, athletics, Award Assemblies, etc. All participants, including faculty, staff, students, parents and family members, and other guests, will be required to wear a mask to these close quarter events for the sake of our school community, regardless of vaccination status.