



**Urban Academy  
Safe Return to In-Person Learning Plan  
for the 2023-24 School Year**

**District #4088**

## Urban Academy's Safe Learning Plan

Urban Academy continues to follow the Minnesota Department of Education and the Minnesota Department of Health advice in ensuring the health and safety of all students, staff and families in their communities.

The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) recommends that schools, child care, youth programs, and camps implement a core set of infectious disease prevention strategies from the Center of Disease as part of their normal operations and layer additional prevention strategies specific to COVID-19 to the extent possible in response to changing local situations. This guidance from the Center of Disease Control is aimed to help prevent the spread of other infectious diseases and support healthy learning environments for all.

### CDC Strategies for Everyday Operations

Urban Academy (UA) takes a variety of actions every day to prevent the spread of infectious diseases, including the virus that causes COVID-19. The following set of strategies for everyday operations are in place.

#### Staying Up to Date on Vaccinations

UA promotes equitable access to vaccinations. Staying up to date on [routine vaccinations](#) is essential to prevent illness from many different infections. COVID-19 vaccination helps protect eligible people from getting severely ill with COVID-19. For COVID-19, [staying up to date with COVID-19 vaccinations](#) is the leading public health strategy to prevent severe disease. Not only does it provide individual-level protection, but high vaccination coverage reduces the burden of COVID-19 on people, schools, healthcare systems, and communities. UA promotes the vaccination in many ways:

- UA provides information about [COVID-19 vaccines](#) and other recommended [vaccines](#) and provides communications that meet the needs of people with limited English proficiency who require language services and individuals with disabilities who require accessible formats.
- UA encourage [trust and confidence](#) in COVID-19 vaccines through newsletters and the school's website.
- UA supports employees in getting vaccines by providing paid time off for individuals to get vaccinated or assist family members receiving vaccinations.
- Connects eligible children, students, teachers, staff, and families to [off-site](#) vaccination locations.

#### Staying Home When Sick

People who have symptoms of respiratory or gastrointestinal infections, such as cough, fever, sore throat, vomiting, or diarrhea, are encouraged stay home. [Testing](#) is recommended for people with [symptoms of COVID-19](#) as soon as possible after symptoms begin. If a person with COVID-19 symptoms tests negative for COVID-19, they should consider getting tested for other respiratory illnesses that could be spread to others, such as flu. If tested using an antigen test, negative tests should be repeated following [FDA recommendations](#). People who are at risk for getting very sick with COVID-19

who test positive should consult with a healthcare provider right away for possible [treatment](#), even if their symptoms are mild. Staying home when sick can lower the risk of spreading infectious diseases, including COVID-19, to other people. For more information on staying home when sick with COVID-19, including recommendations for isolation and mask use for people who test positive or who are experiencing symptoms consistent with COVID-19.

UA has flexible, non-punitive, and supportive paid sick leave policies and practices; including supporting employees in caring for a sick family member and encourage sick workers to stay home without fear of retaliation, loss of pay, loss of employment, or other negative impacts. UA provides excused absences for students who are sick, avoid policies that incentivize coming to school while sick, and support children who are learning at home if they are sick. UA ensures that employees and families are aware of and understand these policies and avoid language that penalizes or stigmatizes staying home when sick.

#### Ventilation

UA continues to make improvements to indoor air quality to reduce the risk of germs and contaminants spreading through the air. UA has made improvements to Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) systems; and purchased of MERV-13 air filters, portable air cleaners, and other methods for improving ventilation.

#### Hand Hygiene and Respiratory Etiquette

Washing hands can prevent the spread of infectious diseases. UA encourages all and teaches students in proper [handwashing](#) to lower the risk of spreading viruses, including the virus that causes COVID-19.

UA teaches and reinforces the covering of [coughs and sneezes](#) to help keep individuals from getting and spreading infectious diseases, including COVID-19.

#### Cleaning

UA continues to clean surfaces at least once a day to reduce the risk of germs spreading by touching surfaces.