Dear Uni parents and students,

After more than a year of remote learning, being back together at Uni these last few weeks has been healing and life-giving. With positive COVID-19 cases in Champaign County at the highest numbers we've seen since last November, our collective responsibility to act in the best interest of community safety in order to remain together in-person is more important than ever. For this reason, the Uni administration and Uni’s Health and Safety Committee have collaborated on updated guidelines to help keep the Uni community safe. These updates are reflected in our newly revised “Uni High COVID policies and practices for fall 2021” document, but we want to highlight some of the changes here:

- **Reporting COVID-19 Cases and Exposure**
  - Vaccinated students who test positive for COVID-19 or have a family member who has tested positive and unvaccinated students who test positive for COVID-19, have a family member who has tested positive, or are a close contact of someone who tested positive should complete this self-reporting form, which will update Uni’s administration regarding the student’s status. Please also notify the front office of the student’s absence.

- **Exposure Decision Tree**
  - Members of the Uni community can consult this decision tree when determining the best course of action after being exposed to COVID-19. The decision tree offers guidance based on proximity/length of exposure, vaccination status, presence of symptoms, and testing results. We will be relying on the University’s SHIELD testing system to help us monitor those who have been exposed in an effort to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 at school.

- **Testing**
  - We are extremely fortunate to have access to the University’s campus testing sites. In order to limit unnecessary time away from school due to exposure, we are implementing a regular testing requirement for Uni students and faculty, explained below. Although the University mandates testing only for those who are unvaccinated, we hope that regular testing for everyone will identify asymptomatic positive cases, thus heading off potential exposures, and limit unnecessary school absences. **Starting the week of September 13, vaccinated students are required to test once a week.** We recommend testing twice a week for students who have unvaccinated or medically vulnerable family members, who work or volunteer in a public-facing role, or who are otherwise in higher-risk situations. **Unvaccinated students are required to test three times a week.** Students can be tested at no cost at the campus testing sites, open 7 days a week, and will be allowed to test during their study halls. There is currently a testing location one block north of Uni High at NCSA (1205 W. Clark St., Urbana), available to Uni students, faculty, and staff.
  - Starting next Wednesday (September 15), students will need to be ready to show proof of a negative test result within the past seven days through the Safer Illinois app, a printed negative test result from McKinley, or showing the result on their laptop.
• Lunch Meetings
  o Large lunch meetings should be held outside or in Uni Gym when possible. When eating inside the school, students should adhere to classroom capacity recommendations (printed above each doorway) and sit a minimum of 6 ft apart. Students should not eat during an indoor lunch meeting unless the number of students is below capacity, in which case classroom doors and windows should be open and masks should be put back on after students have finished eating.

• Classroom comfort
  o Because we are relying on outdoor spaces and open windows to provide ventilation, everyone should dress for a variety of temperatures. As temperatures drop, we will ask that students dress warmly and bring blankets to keep in their lockers. Windows will continue to be open over the course of the fall and winter, with the exception of very cold days. Everyone should continue to bring water bottles and avoid drinking directly from the fountains.

• Travel
  • We understand that travel is a normal part of student and family schedules, especially during breaks and holidays. Individuals and families who travel and participate in moderate or higher level risk activities should test immediately upon return for the safety of the school community, and test at least twice in the week after returning.

• Flu Shots
  o We recommend all students and faculty receive their flu shots in a timely manner this year. With the increase in COVID-19 cases, other seasonal illness may also complicate testing schedules and increase anxiety surrounding illness. Overall, we want to keep the Uni community healthy and strong, especially going into the cold and flu season.

Please visit our newly revised “Uni High COVID policies and practices for fall 2021” document for more information and download or bookmark it for future reference. Thanks for helping to keep the Uni community safe for the 2021–22 school year!

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