



HS Spring 2021

Return to Campus **FAQs** Students & Families

Questions submitted via the Student Council survey are noted.

Class Schedule

By starting a hybrid program, will we continue to follow the schedule we have had all year? [Student question]

Yes. You will continue to attend classes following the same schedule you have had all year with the same teachers and classmates.

What do you mean by hybrid? [Student question]

Hybrid means that some students will attend school in-person while some will remain remote. Students will have the option to attend their classes on campus, on scheduled days. Each HS grade will attend school for two consecutive days, in rotation, as shown below.

Students will continue to attend their classes remotely when their grade level is not assigned for in-person learning. Students who remain in a fully remote program will Zoom into classes as well.

Week of	M	T	W	Th	F
	A1	B1		A2	B2
8-Mar	12	12	C - Remote	9	9
15-Mar	10	10	ARTSFEST	Break	Break
22-Mar	Break	Break	Break	Break	Break
29-Mar	11	11	C - Remote	12	12
5-Apr	9	9	C - Remote	10	10
12-Apr	11	11	12 (A2)	12 (B2)	PD No School
19-Apr	9	9	C - Remote	10	10
26-Apr	11	11	C - Remote	12	12
3-May	9	9	C - Remote	10	10
10-May	11	11	C - Remote	9	9
17-May	10	10	C - Remote	11	11
24-May	9	9	C - Remote	10	10
31-May	Holiday	11 (A1)	11 (B1)	9	9
7-Jun	TBD	TBD	TBD	Graduation	

Am I required to participate in hybrid learning? [Student question]

No. Students and families will consider many factors as they determine what is right for the student. Students do have to commit to either the hybrid or the fully remote program and may not choose to attend some classes in person, and others remotely.

During in-person days, will I be in class with my teacher?

Yes, unless your teacher has been given permission to work remotely. In this case you will be assigned to a space where you can zoom into class.

What learning experiences can I expect if I am in person in classes. For example, can I do labs? [Student question]

While we are excited for the opportunities that being in person may bring, factors, including social distancing, will still impact classes. No experience is guaranteed. Individual teachers will decide what is possible/feasible given their assigned room, safety considerations, and the number of students in person and remote.

If I stay fully remote, will I keep my same schedule, class, and teacher?

Yes. You will continue to access class via Zoom.

If my parents/guardians and I choose to remain remote, can I switch to hybrid learning later or vice versa? [Student question]

The scheduling of classes into rooms will depend on the number of students who select the hybrid program. Therefore *the selection you make can not be changed after February 21, 2021.*

- The first opportunity to potentially move between hybrid and fully remote, after the initial selection, will be May 10 when seniors begin May Project.

Will we still have an open campus policy? [Student question]

No. U-High will run a closed campus—once there in the morning, students must remain on Lab premises until after they are dismissed from their last class. This change will be in place for the remainder of the school year, and Lab will work with families to support those students who have medical appointments during the school day.

Where do I go when I have a free period? [Student question]

Specific locations will be designated for students with a free period. Please note that students will be able to spend this time with their friends who also have a free period.

How do passing periods work? [Student question]

During passing periods, students should move directly to the area of their next class and must maintain social distance by adhering to floor markings.

Arrivals, Departures, and Campus Access

What time can students enter campus? [Student question]

Students can enter school starting from 7:45 a.m. on both A day and B days.

What time must students leave campus? [Student question]

Students can leave school for the day after they are dismissed from their last class. All students must leave the campus by 4 p.m.

Can students delay arriving until the start of their first class? [Student question]

Yes. high school students do not need to arrive when school opens, and can arrive in time for their first class of the day.

Where should high school students enter the school?

High school students should enter the school via the main High School entrance off of Kenwood Mall. Students will need to tap in using their Lab ID card and will need to put hand sanitizer on their hands.

What if a student doesn't have their Lab ID card?

9th and 11th grade students who submitted a photo last summer and have not yet received their ID card will receive it on the first day of their return.

10th and 12th grade students, and any student who has lost their ID card, should send a note immediately to lostid@ucls.uchicago.edu to request a new ID card. The \$20 replacement fee will be billed to families via FACTS. The ID will be available for pick-up once the students return to campus.

Why is the campus closed for high school students?

As part of our safety protocols, and to allow for adequate supervision, U-High will be a closed campus for the remainder of the school year. Please remember that students do not have to arrive until their first class begins and can leave after they are dismissed from their last class. They must remain on campus, however, in between these times. Note that Kenwood Mall between the middle school and the gym building is considered part of the Lab campus.

Will there be outdoor spaces that high school students can use throughout the day?

In addition to Kenwood Mall, students can also go to Scammon Garden (outside of Gordon Parks), and the garden between U-High and Gordon Parks, and the Blaine Courtyard. Please note that at certain times of the day these areas will be used by other divisions for recess and breaks. We will share those times with high school students.

What areas of the school are high school students allowed to/not allowed to access during the day?

This is still being finalized and more information will be shared before the start of the hybrid program. Reminders will also be posted around campus.

Will families (e.g., parents, caregivers, and other children) be required to be masked in their car when they arrive for drop-off and pick-up?

Yes. Everyone in the vehicle will be required to wear a face covering during carline drop off and pick up.

What if families are running late to pick up a student from school?

We will have a designated space where a student can sit and wait for a late parent/guardian in the case of an emergency. Lab buildings close at 4 p.m. each day for cleaning.

Lunch

Can students bring lunch from home? If so, what can they bring?

Yes, students may bring their lunch from home. Items should be disposable or should be cleaned and disinfected at home each evening. **Students will not have the use of microwave ovens to warm up lunch items.** Students may not share food/drink with other students.

Can students purchase lunch or snacks? [Student question]

Yes. Lunches, snacks, and drinks can be pre-ordered using the [My Meal Order](#) app. Students will pick up their pre-ordered lunch from Cafe Lab. The cafeteria and coffee shop will remain closed. The vending machines are available.

Where will students eat lunch? [Student question]

Students will eat in one of two large spaces - Cafe Lab or Sunny Gym - each with a capacity of 50, or in designated classrooms. Students must be 8' apart and may not talk while eating. Students will need to wipe down their seating area when the period ends. Students will be able to eat outdoors on Lab's campus once the weather improves.

May students bring snacks or other treats to share with their advisory, a club or a class?

No, there will be no shared food in advisory, club meetings, or classes.

Clubs and Activities

Will clubs be able to meet in person during lunch period? [Student question]

Yes. Dean of Students Ana Campos will assign clubs to a particular classroom on the day of the week that corresponds to the regular club meeting time if they wish to meet in person. Students not in school will Zoom into these meetings.

- Students are to quietly eat for the first 15 minutes of the meeting. Once students have finished eating and their masks have been put back on, the meetings may formally begin.
- Student clubs will need to leave time at the end of their meeting to permit everyone to sanitize their seating area.

Will clubs be able to meet after school? [Student question]

Students need to leave school by 4 p.m. daily in order for the custodial staff to do deep cleaning. Any club or student group wishing to meet after school must first request permission from Ms. Campos by completing the club event form in her office, UH C023. Included in their request needs to be the name of a faculty or staff member who has volunteered to supervise their gathering. The supervision ratio is 15:1. Student clubs will need to leave time at the end of their meeting to permit everyone to sanitize their seating area.

In-Person School Days

Will parents or visitors be allowed on campus?

No. Any visit to Lab offices must be pre-arranged through the respective school office. School faculty or staff will continue to schedule phone calls or Zoom meetings when there is a need for contact with parents/guardians.

What must students bring to school with them each day?

Students should bring their backpack, school supplies, a **fully charged** laptop or tablet, and headphones/earbuds daily. If a student needs assistance obtaining a laptop/tablet or headphones/earbuds, they should [contact the IS help desk](#). ***We strongly recommend that students bring wired headphones/earbuds, as there may not be an opportunity to charge wireless items during the school day.***

How will students' belongings be stored at school? [Student question]

Students will need to carry their belongings around each day. Lockers will not be assigned/used. Since students will attend at most four classes each day, they only need to bring supplies for classes they will attend on a given day.

How will emergency drills be conducted during the school year?

[Per Illinois State Board of Education \(ISBE\) guidance](#), Lab will conduct emergency drills in accordance with Phase 4 health and safety guidance. Accordingly we will run multiple drills to avoid bottlenecks in stairwells and hallways and congestion at gathering points. Drill dates and times will be shared in advance with faculty.

Fire drills require evacuating the buildings in an orderly manner and then assembling in an outdoor area to account for all students and staff. All exit routes will remain the same and are posted in each room and office for the faculty and staff to follow. When exiting the building, it may not be possible to maintain the six-foot separation from other cohorts, but such contact with another group will be brief. Once outside the building, students should locate their classroom teacher and gather by class for attendance to be taken.

In the event of an *actual* emergency, life safety will be the priority. This means prioritizing actions that save time (exiting a building as quickly as possible) and are medically prudent (CPR) over attempting to maintain social distancing.

Social-Emotional Resources

What mental health supports will you be providing to support students?

School counselors will continue to provide social and emotional support to individual students. School counselors will also partner with teachers in supporting the social and emotional needs of students in the classroom.

Lab will continue our partnership with the Institute for Social and Emotional Learning (IFSEL) and CASEL to provide drop-in support and programs for faculty, staff, and parents. Wellness Councils will continue to share wellness programs and resources in each division.

Are there resources we can use at home to support me/my student?

- [American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry](#) - Facts for Families Guide
- [Child Mind Institute](#) - How to Talk About Mental Health Issues (also offered in Spanish)
- [National Suicide Prevention Lifeline](#) - The 5 Steps To Help Someone in Crisis, How and Why the 5 Steps Can Help
- [Erika's Lighthouse: Educate Yourself and Talk to Your Teen](#)

The resources above, as well as several others, can be found in the resource section of the [Learning & Counseling webpage](#).

What to do when concerned about a student's mental health and well-being.

If you are generally concerned for a student, please start by contacting the student's school counselor. In addition to providing support in the moment for a student, they can also provide parents and guardians with referrals to mental health professionals and programs to support any number of mental health conditions.

If worried about a student's safety, risk of harm to self or others, or some other emergency, please call the student's parent/guardian, or call 911 (home addresses can be found in the Family Directory in PowerSchool), and then reach out to the school counselor to share the concern afterward.

General Questions

Will spring break and other days off remain the same?

Yes. The calendar has not changed for the 2020–21 school year.

How can students and families prepare for the student to return to school?

We recommend the following:

1. Frequently review the critical importance of physical distancing. (One handy rule of thumb is to use “airplane arms” by having two people reach out their arms toward each other. Their fingertips should not touch.)
2. Students should wear a mask for several hours at a time.
3. Use the [Learning and Counseling Social and Emotional Resources](#) to talk to your student about COVID-19 and prepare for the return to hybrid learning.

The more students prepare for the return to hybrid learning, the better prepared they will be for successfully transitioning back to school.

Will the student bus service be available?

No, the student bus service has been suspended until further notice. Visit the [Student Bus Service webpage](#) for information on alternative transportation options.

Can students use school printers and copiers? [Student question]

Yes. After each use, the student will be expected to sanitize and wipe down the equipment using the cleaning materials provided and as directed on signs posted by each copier/printer.

Can students arrange meetings with teachers while in-person?

Teachers can hold in-person individual student meetings during in-person days if feasible.

Will the high school’s Pritzker-Traubert Library be open? [Student question]

Lab is continuing to work to safely offer library services with new health and safety protocols. More information will be shared when we are ready to re-open.

Can upperclass students still use Regenstein Library? [Student question]

Upperclass students can reserve an individual study space in the Regenstein Library. Please note that reservations must be placed at least 12 hours in advance, and reservations are required for admittance to the building. You must take your Lab ID Card and proof of reservation to be admitted. Please [review the library policies on reserving seats](#).

Can students use other University spaces (e.g. Booth cafe, Harper library, Reynolds Club, etc.)? [Student question]

No. Lab students will not be allowed to congregate in or spend time in any non-Lab university buildings or spaces, aside from Regenstein.

Travel - Outside of School Activities

If my family travels out of state, do we need to quarantine before returning to Lab?

Families are expected to follow all city, state, and federal guidelines related to travel. [The UChicago Forward website has more information about travel](#).

What will happen if students and families gather together outside of school - evenings and weekends? [Student question]

Our safe return to hybrid learning is predicated on every single member of the Lab community doing their part to keep one another safe. We hope that families and students choosing to return to campus in our hybrid program understand that their actions outside of school help keep everyone in school safe and healthy.

Students who have routinely gathered with peers outside of school, and especially if they have not upheld COVID public health guidelines (maintaining the 6' distance and wearing of an appropriate mask), should immediately stop doing so and quarantine for 10 days prior to returning to school, or should continue to attend school remotely.

I am aware of students/families who opted into the in-person program who are not upholding public health and Lab/University guidelines. What should I do? [Student question]

Adapted from the UChicago Forward website:

The University's experience so far indicates that there is widespread determination across the UChicago community to uphold COVID-19 health and safety requirements. If you see someone in a UChicago building without a face covering, not following social distancing requirements, or violating the health and safety requirements in another way, we encourage you to take the following steps:

- Politely urge them to adhere to the UChicago Health Pact, noting the specific requirement they are not adhering to.
- If the person continues to violate the requirements or becomes confrontational, please do not pursue the issue further in person. Instead, please remove yourself from the situation (particularly if you feel unsafe).
- Depending on the urgency of the situation, you can report the situation:
 - Immediately to a teacher, dean of students, school counselor or advisor;
 - Via [UCAIR](#), the University's incident reporting system for COVID-19 safety matters. When reporting through UCAIR, please provide as much detail as possible in your report, which will be reviewed for follow-up (typically within 24 hours) by the appropriate campus administrator. As a reminder, UCAIR reports can be submitted anonymously if preferred.

My family has plans to travel at Spring Break, can I still sign up for the in-person program?

Yes. It is important that you still sign up so we allocate the necessary space. You will, however, need to self-quarantine in adherence to state guidelines before beginning in-person learning.

If our family is traveling, do I need to notify the school?

If you/your student will participate in the in-person program, then all travel should be reported to the Nurse's Office using the [Travel Reporting Form](#) found on the Lab Nurse's Page.

Face Coverings

What are the face covering requirements?

Everyone is expected to wear a face covering that fully covers their nose and mouth and has ear loops to securely hold it in place at all times while inside Lab buildings. It is not sufficient to wear masks that are loose-fitting, such as neck gaiters, bandanas, or scarves, and such coverings do not meet the University's new requirement. In addition, face coverings must be worn outside on the campus grounds when others are present. Students, faculty, and staff will receive training on proper mask-wearing.

What face covering will students use?

Lab will provide two reusable cloth masks to every student who did not already receive one at past on-campus gatherings. Families also have the option to provide a reusable cloth face covering for their student provided it meets the requirements below:

- Cloth masks should be washed at home with detergent between uses.
- Masks may not feature distracting imagery, or profane, derogatory, sexually suggestive, or other offensive or inappropriate language, illegal activities, or inappropriate products.
- Reusable cloth masks are preferred, but single-use masks are an option as a backup.

- Face coverings that are **permitted** include:
 - Store-purchased cloth masks,
 - Homemade face coverings that follow the [CDC's specifications](#),
 - Surgical masks that tie or loop around the ears, and
- Face coverings that are **not permitted** include:
 - Face coverings with an exhalation valve, which can allow particles to exit through the valve;
 - N-95 respirators
 - Half/full-face respirators; and
 - Face/neck gaiter wraps that are 2 layers (as of 2/10/21)
- Disposable masks should only be used for one day and must then be discarded.

What if someone can't wear a mask due to a medical condition?

Families may seek an accommodation for their student if they are unable to wear a face covering due to a medical condition. Any family seeking an accommodation for their student must have their physician complete the [Face Covering Accommodation Request Form](#) and submit it to the School Nurse.

Will students have to wear face coverings all day?

Students will be expected to wear their masks for long periods of time. Mask breaks can occur while eating lunch. During this time students must maintain an 8ft distancing and remain silent.

What happens if a student forgets, loses, or damages their face covering?

Disposable masks will be available in the nurse's office for students who need a temporary face covering.

How will the face covering requirement be enforced? [Student question]

School security staff will not allow anyone in the building without a face covering. Disposable face masks will be available at entrances. It is the responsibility of all Lab students and employees to wear face coverings for everyone's safety. As safety is the priority, students who do not maintain the face covering over their nose and mouth as required will be addressed and may be sent home. If necessary, students may be told to revert to the remote program for not adhering to safety protocols.

Hygiene

How often will students wash their hands?

Everyone is expected to wash their hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after being in a public place or bathroom, touching surfaces often touched by others, and after nose blowing, coughing, sneezing, or before and after eating.

- Hand sanitizer stations will be placed throughout our classrooms and buildings.
- Signs will be posted in visible locations (e.g., school entrances, restrooms) that promote everyday protective measures and describe how to stop the spread of germs (such as by properly washing hands and properly wearing a face covering).

How often will the school be cleaned? [Student question]

Lab will partner with UChicago Facilities Services and ABM (our housekeeping vendor) to clean our spaces on a daily basis including high-traffic areas and high-touch surfaces, elevators, bathrooms, and stairwells. The school is professionally cleaned each evening.

- Bathrooms will be cleaned several times per day. Shared classroom materials and high-touch surfaces such as desks, chairs, and tables will be cleaned as needed with disinfectant provided in each classroom.
- Students will sanitize their seating area at the end of each class/meeting.

Do student's belongings need to be sanitized each day after school?

Cloth face coverings must be washed after each use. We recommend that belongings brought home from school be wiped down with disinfectant each day after school.

What is the available ventilation/air filtration in classrooms?

All mechanical ventilation systems in each University of Chicago building have undergone preventive maintenance in accordance with applicable statutory City of Chicago requirements, as well as all recommended guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air Conditioning Engineers to comply with the guidance provided where possible.

Restroom use [Student question]

Occupancy limits will be marked on the outside of bathrooms. All stalls and sinks will be open. If all stalls are in use, students may go to a different restroom or wait outside the restroom for a stall to open. Students may not congregate in restrooms.

Physical Distancing

What measures have been taken to help to physically distance students while at school? [Student question]

The University and Lab have worked with architects to assess and reassign classrooms to de-densify and allow for physical distancing. Under the advisement of UChicago epidemiological experts and informed by a variety of recommendations made by national and state health and education organizations, Lab will reconfigure rooms so that the following distances are used to establish physical distancing at Lab:

- Classrooms will allow for six-foot spacing between students.
- Rooms will be cleared of excess furniture to maximize space.

Academic schedules and classroom use will be designed to keep students in smaller groups during the day and have fewer students on campus at one time.

Additionally, stickers will be placed on floors throughout the areas used by high school students to visually remind students to maintain the appropriate distance.

Self-Monitoring

How will you monitor the health of people on campus?

Anyone coming to campus is required to self-monitor for symptoms and stay home if they have potentially been exposed to COVID-19 or have had any symptoms including: cough, runny or stuffy nose, shortness of breath, fever, difficulty breathing, chills, body aches, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell, and nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) [has identified the current list of symptoms of COVID-19](#).

- Employees: The University has a formal attestation and training process in place for all University employees, including Lab employees.
- All Lab parents/guardians received an email last August asking them to complete the required COVID-19 training and health attestation.
- **Parents/guardians will be required to complete a daily symptom screening form before 8 a.m. each day their student is on campus.** Students will not be allowed in classrooms or to participate in on-campus activities if their parents/guardians have not completed the daily symptom screening form.

Will Lab be taking students' temperature as they arrive each morning?

No. This is not a required part of the University's multi-layered approach to health and safety. Temperatures will be checked by the School Nurses as needed for individuals who report or develop symptoms of illness while at school.

Does a student have to stay home if they have a runny nose or cough but no fever? Must they remain home until it clears?

Yes. If a student is ill with symptoms associated with COVID-19, they must stay home until they have received a negative COVID test, their symptoms have cleared, and you have consulted with the [School Nurse](#). Now more than ever, our community must abide by our policy that faculty, staff, and students must stay home if they exhibit signs of any illness. Families will be asked to pick up their student promptly if they show symptoms of illness at school and need to go home.

COVID-19 Information, Reporting, Quarantine, and Notification

What are the symptoms of COVID-19?

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) [has identified a variety of symptoms of COVID-19](#).

A student and/or another member of their household is in an at-risk group for COVID-19. Should the student go to school?

Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has defined [conditions in which certain people may be more at risk for severe illness through COVID-19](#). If a student or another member of their household is in an at-risk group, we encourage you to speak to your healthcare provider. Ultimately, you will need to decide whether you feel comfortable with a student attending school in-person.

Under what circumstances would a student have to be quarantined?

A student would have to be quarantined if they have had close contact with someone who is COVID-19 positive; or upon return from a location that has been identified by [federal](#), state, or [local health officials](#).

What happens if a student is suspected of having COVID-19?

If you suspect you/your student has COVID-19: you/they may not enter any Lab or other University facility; inform the [School Nurse](#); and consult with your healthcare provider.

A student must not return to campus until the following criteria are met:

- a. If symptoms are no longer present, **and** the student has received a negative COVID test result, they may be permitted to return to on-campus activities (Note: A negative test result by itself is not sufficient for an individual to resume on-campus activities if they continue to exhibit COVID-19-related symptoms.)
- b. If the above criteria are not met, the student will be expected to stay away from campus or in-person Lab-related activities until confirmed as non-infectious by the criteria below:
 - i. At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared, **and**
 - ii. 24 hours have passed since recovery, defined as resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications and improvement in respiratory systems (e.g., cough, shortness of breath).

A student has COVID-19-like symptoms, but tested negative for COVID-19. When can they return to school?

If a student has tested negative, they are permitted to return to on-campus activities when:

- symptoms are no longer present, **and**
- the parent/guardian has consulted with the [School Nurse](#) about plans for return.

(Note: A negative test result by itself is not sufficient for an individual to resume on-campus activities if they continue to exhibit COVID-19-related symptoms.)

What happens if a student tests positive for COVID-19? [Student question]

If a student tests positive for COVID-19, their parent/guardian should promptly report the test to C19HealthReport@uchicago.edu and the [School Nurse](#). They must not return to Lab or other University facilities until the following criteria are met:

- At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared and
- 24 hours have passed since recovery, defined as resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications and improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath).

What should we do if someone in a student's household tests positive for COVID-19?

If someone in a student's household tests positive for COVID-19, the parent/guardian should promptly report the test to C19HealthReport@uchicago.edu and the [School Nurse](#). The student must not return to Lab or other University facilities until the following criteria are met:

- They have quarantined for a period of 14 days per the recommendations of the [CDC](#) and [CDPH](#) and did not develop any symptoms, **or**
- If during the time of quarantine, they develop COVID-related symptoms, the student cannot return to campus until confirmed as non-infectious by the following criteria:
 - At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared, and
 - 24 hours have passed since recovery, defined as resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications and improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath).

If a student or employee becomes ill at school, do you have a place for them to rest away from others until they can go home?

Yes. There are supervised quarantine spaces at the HC for students, staff, and faculty who are experiencing COVID-like symptoms and may be awaiting evaluation and/or pickup. Students will be supervised at all times while maintaining necessary precautions within the quarantine space.

What happens if a teacher or another student in my/my student's class tests positive for COVID-19? [Student question]

The School Nurse will consult with the University's Contact Tracing Team. The Contact Tracer will determine transmission timelines and pathways and provide recommendations to further limit spread of the virus. Should the Contact Tracer determine that you/your student had "close contact" with a COVID-positive person, you will be notified by the School Nurse and you/your student must not return to school until the following criteria are met:

- They have quarantined for a period of 14 days per the recommendations of the [CDC](#) and [CDPH](#) and did not develop any symptoms, **or**
- If during the time of quarantine, they developed COVID-related symptoms, they are confirmed as non-infectious by the following criteria:
 - At least 10 days have passed since their symptoms first appeared and
 - 24 hours have passed since recovery, defined as resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications and improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath).

Will students receive remote learning while quarantined?

Lab will support individual students as needed during their time away from school, including allowing students to Zoom into classes where appropriate.

How will Lab be supported with COVID-19 contact tracing?

Lab will utilize the University Infection Control Team for the tracing of all positive tests.