

Plans for School Re-opening in Fall 2020

[Last Updated 6/16/2020]

United Christian Academy is pleased to offer the following plans for re-opening our classrooms in the fall. These plans are based on current conditions and regulations. Administration will continue to monitor the situation, make adjustments as needed, and keep school families updated. The CA Dept of Public Health (CDPH) has the most binding authority on private schools like UC Academy. The CDPH's booklet, *Covid-19 Industry Guidance: Schools and School-Based Programs*, released June 5, 2020, is the most authoritative source that UCA draws upon to guide our school in our re-opening plans.

First Day of School will be August 12, 2020. We are choosing the normal start calendar so that students and teachers can bond and establish solid routines. This foundation is necessary should the coronavirus re-emerge and we need to re-deploy the remote learning again later in the school year.

UCA will be offering the traditional, on-campus, full-day classroom instructions. Our goal is to accommodate as many UCA families as possible seeking this option. The exact capacity will be different from classroom to classroom. We have room for all families currently enrolled, but future enrollment may be capped in order to achieve the 6' spacing required by the CDPH. Additionally, UCA is looking into privacy board/cubbies and/or wearing of face masks/shields to help reduce the social distancing requirements so we can accommodate more students in the classrooms.

A separate online learning option is available for those still uncomfortable with on-campus attendance. The online learning program will be administered by UCA, and parents can select from various third-party educational providers. Most online classes require a year-long commitment. Additional information can be provided upon request.

We will provide a complete Covid-19 Safety Guidelines booklet for students, staff, and parents prior to the opening of school. Below is a summary of the safety protocols we will follow for on-campus instruction:

STOP CORONAVIRUS FROM GETTING ON CAMPUS

- Take temperatures of staff and students daily (using the no-touch thermometers)
- Limited visitors to classrooms
- Families must report any potential exposure and self-quarantine

PREVENT THE POSSIBLE SPREAD ON CAMPUS

- Six-foot social distancing in classrooms and around campus
- Masks or shields are required for staff
- Masks/shields are required for students **when social distancing is not possible** (arriving/leaving school; going from class to class, etc.)
- Frequent hand-washing, hand sanitizing, and wiping down of tables & equipment
- As much as possible, keep students in same classroom & personal space; teachers rotate from classroom to classroom
- Staggered lunches in classrooms or various locations that facilitate social distancing
- Staggered recess schedule; one class at a time per available locations
- One-way traffic with social distancing in/out of buildings
- No large assemblies

REMOVE ANY POTENTIAL POSITIVE CASES FROM CAMPUS

- Students or staff with body temperatures above 100 degrees must stay home
- Those suspected with coronavirus infection must be tested and receive a test result of “negative” before being allowed to return to school. We will also accept a doctor’s note that verifies that at least 72 hours have passed since recovery or at least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared.
- Long term substitutes for affected teachers

Frequently Asked Questions

Why is UCA choosing to the on-campus option (as opposed to continuing with remote/virtual learning)? We believe children need socialization and human interactions. While social isolation was necessary to flatten the curve, too much of it can have detrimental effects too. Additionally, Christian education is most effective in a life-on-life mentoring situation, especially for young children. The vast majority of UCA parents (56%) expressed a strong desire for on-campus learning. Finally, parents need to go back to work, and a full-time, on-campus option is most sensitive to this reality.

Does UCA have the “green light” to re-open? Yes, provided that we comply with the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) guidelines.

Why is UCA now making decisions independent of CJUHSD? Public schools are facing financial, space, personnel, and other issues that will dictate their ability to re-open or not. UCA does not face those same issues, and we do not want to subject our decision to those constraints. Additionally, if we are to open in August, we have to act now and prepare accordingly. Therefore, waiting on CJUHSD is no longer a good option.

What happens if CJUHSD continues with online learning? Will UCA follow their curriculum instead of insisting to do traditional classes? UCA is committed to on-

campus learning. We will be employing third-party vendors to provide online instruction to those preferring that option.

What is the protocol for personnel with low grade fever like 100.4? Students and staff with temperatures at or above 100 degree will be required to stay home.

What types of thermometers will be used for assessment? What about the process of cleaning the thermometers? We will be using no-touch thermometers. We will wipe down the thermometer after each reading; thermometers will not touch the students.

What about cold season? All students or staff exhibiting Covid-19 symptoms are required to stay home: fever, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, chills, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell (CDPH, p. 12).

If they create a vaccine will UCA be making it mandatory? What's the option for those refusing to get vaccinated? UCA will be following the requirements established by the CDPH. If the CDPH requires the vaccination, they will likely provide adequate time and grace period for families to comply. It is likely that families will not be impacted in the 2020-2021 school year.

Will students be required to wear masks? Will masks be provided? The CDPH requires students to wear masks (or face shields) when social distancing is not possible. Therefore, students need to be in masks when arriving and leaving school and going from class to class. Parents will need to provide personal masks. UCA is currently looking into clear, comfortable face shields, which may be a good option for staff and students.

Can you give more information on requirements for kindergarten? Will there be a firm answer on whether or not that age group will be required to wear masks? Please see above. We recognize that our youngest students will require the most accommodations, and UCA will do all we can to limit restrictions on our youngest students.

What types of mask will be needed to be worn? Families may provide masks of their choosing. UCA is currently looking into clear, comfortable face shields, which may be a good option/substitute for staff and students.

Will there be hand sanitizer stations? Yes, hand sanitizers are available in all classrooms.

Why not meet for traditional classroom for two weeks to get to know each other then resume fulltime, online learning again after until vaccine is available? In case there are asymptomatic people? We believe that in-person, on-campus is healthier and more beneficial for students. Therefore, we will proceed with this model until it is no longer a reasonably safe option.

If students get sent home when sick, can they do online classes while out sick? My biggest concern is having a plan for ill children, so that families don't feel like

they have to send a sick child, so they don't fall behind in their studies. Our teachers will provide make-up assignment packets just like prior years, before Covid 19.

If we choose to stay at home, will the at-home kids be able to interact with on campus activities? In order to reduce the chance of the coronavirus spreading, it is important that we limit all interactions as much as possible, even interactions of on-campus students. Therefore, those choosing the online/homeschool option will not be allowed to interact with on-campus students until the coronavirus threat is removed. Athletics is an exception to this: full-time enrollees in UCA's online academy or homeschool program may participate in the after school athletic programs if they are on the team.

What about after school programs? Will the school still have the extra programs after school like before? See above. At the start of school, we will need to reduce some of the extra-curricular programs in order to limit the exposure/interactions of students with outsiders. If conditions change and the threat of coronavirus is mitigated, then we will add more and more programs back to our school.

Will there be before and after school care? Yes. We anticipate the hours of before and after school care to be the same. However, to maintain physical distancing, we may have to limit the number of students able to attend and/or have more stringent ways of signing up for the program. If space is limited, our priority will be to serve essential workers first.

Will sports still be offered after school for high school? We are working diligently on our sports plan for the fall. Much rests not on CIF, but on us as schools and leagues. Please contact our Athletic Department for more information.

What if one of the student or staff does get COVID? What will be the protocol in this case? If there is a confirmed Covid-19 case on our campus, the following procedures will be followed:

- Parents will be informed about the confirmed case.
- All teachers and students from that particular division will be sent home, and instruction will continue with remote/virtual learning. For example, if a junior high student is confirmed with Covid 19, then all junior high classes will close temporarily, and UCA teachers will continue to teach remotely/virtually, similar to this year. Elementary and high school would continue with on-campus instruction.
- The entire campus of the affected division will undergo a thorough disinfection.
- The entire household of the infected person will be required to self-quarantined for at least 14 days.
- We will work with health officials to conduct contact tracing, and affected individuals may be required to be tested for Covid 19 and undergo appropriate quarantine, etc.
- UCA will consult with public health officials to determine if/when on-campus learning can safely resume.

If a student tests positive for COVID, will they need a negative COVID test result to return to campus? Or is a return to school note from the doctor adequate? A negative Covid 19 test result is required before returning to school. We will also accept a doctor's note that verifies that at least 72 hours have passed since recovery or at least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared.

If I decide to pull my kid completely, is there an option to hold their spot for the following school year? Families must remain continuously enrolled to have a secured spot for the following year.

Will I be stuck with our choice all school year? We encourage parents to make their selection with the full year's commitment in mind. Switching between the on-campus and online options will be subjected to availability of space and other restrictions such as credit completion, additional fees/tuition, etc.

Has UCA considered requiring antibody testing prior to opening back up? We will consider this option.

What if the public-school districts opt to go with virtual learning and UCA insisted on opening, can we opt out at that time? After June 22, a 60-day notice will be required for withdrawal.

Can the students do partial online and partial in school? Can we do both remote and in-house? This option is not available at this time.

Will there be an attendance issue, meaning if I enroll in the classroom but then decide she may only come to class 2 days a week? Those choosing the on-campus option must commit to full-time attendance as outlined in the Parent-Student Handbook.