

Urban Academy of Greater Pittsburgh Charter School
437 Turrett Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15206

Board of Trustees Policy

Influenza/H1N1 Policy

The Board of Trustees (“Board”) of the Urban Academy of Greater Pittsburgh Charter School (“Charter School”), is committed to the provision of a healthful environment for its students and employees. Influenza is an acute, highly contagious respiratory disease. It is characterized by abrupt onset of fever, body aches, sore throat, headache and cough, and, in children, can also cause diarrhea, vomiting, and dehydration. The purpose of this policy is to help decrease the spread of flu among students and school staff during the school year. The general preventive measures in this policy are designed to reduce the risk of introduction or spread of influenza in the Charter School. This policy is in accordance with recommendations set forward by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, U.S. Department of Education and Pennsylvania Department of Health. This policy shall apply to all students and employees in all programs conducted by the Charter School.

Identification of Influenza/H1N1 Symptoms

The most important step in effectively preventing the spread of the flu among students and Charter School staff is the successful identification of flu symptoms amongst those infected by the flu. Symptoms of influenza/H1N1 include fever (measured temperature of >100F°) and either cough or sore throat. Illness may be accompanied by other symptoms including headache, tiredness, runny or stuffy nose, diarrhea, and vomiting. These symptoms can vary from mild to severe.

Some students and staff are at a higher risk for complications of influenza. These individuals will be pre-identified and the school health staff will take steps to individually educate those individuals of the symptoms of influenza, and recommend to those individuals steps they can take to prevent being infected by influenza. Those individuals are:

- Children < 6 years old.
- Adults 65 years old and older.
- Persons with: Chronic lung disease (including asthma); cardiovascular disease, kidney, liver or blood disorders (including sickle cell disease), nervous system,

- muscular or metabolic disorders (including diabetes); or suppressed immune system (dues to medications, HIV, cancer or organ transplant)
- Pregnant Woman
 - Persons < 19 years old who are receiving long-term aspirin therapy.

Responses to Influenza/H1N1

To prevent the spread of influenza/H1N1, the Charter School will adopt and promote the following guidelines:

1. Stay home when sick

Students and staff members with flu-like symptoms will be asked not to come to school. Generally, individuals with flu-like symptoms should stay home for at least twenty-four (24) hours after they no longer have a fever, or signs of a fever, without the use of fever-reducing medicines. Since the usual duration of fever is two to four (2-4) days, this will allow most individuals to return after a period of three to five (3-5) days.

All students and staff who return to school after having flu-like symptoms must be evaluated by the school health staff upon return to school to make sure they are no longer ill with fever and are well enough to attend class.

2. Separation of ill students and staff

Students and staff who appear to have flu-like symptoms when they arrive at school or while they are at school will be promptly separated from other students and staff and sent home as soon as possible.

The Charter School should be extra-vigilant that ill students be excluded from sports activities, choir or any activities that may involve close contact, since transmission of the flu may be easier in these situations. All students and staff should avoid sharing of saliva, i.e. sharing glasses, water bottles, other drinks, or spoons/forks, etc.

Students and staff that feel flu-like symptoms at school are asked to report to the school health office immediately for treatment. If, after a medical examination by the school health staff, the individual is determined to have flu-like symptoms, that person will be prohibited from returning to class and will be kept in a "sick" room until any necessary arrangements can be made for that individual to go home.

The Charter School will designate a space to be used as a sick room. A limited number of staff will be designated to care for ill persons until they can be sent home. Persons in charge of caring for ill persons will be instructed to have limited interactions with other students and staff to decrease the risk of spreading influenza/H1N1.

Staff members that provide care for persons with flu-like illness will use appropriate personal protective equipment, such as a mask.

3. Hand hygiene

Influenza can spread through contaminated hands or objects that become contaminated with influenza. Students and staff are encouraged to wash their hands with soap and water regularly.

Hand sanitizers, which do not contain alcohol, will be distributed to all classrooms and offices throughout the school. All students and staff will be encouraged to use the hand sanitizers several times a day.

The Charter School will provide time for all students and staff to wash their hands and/or use the hand sanitizers whenever necessary, especially before eating, and after using the restroom. Restrooms should be checked regularly to ensure that soap and paper towels are always available.

All students will be educated on the importance of washing their hands. Notices will be prominently displayed throughout the school asking students and staff to wash their hands on a regular basis for 15-20 seconds (this is generally the amount of time it takes to sing the ABC's). Dry hands with paper towels or automatic hand dryers if possible.

4. Respiratory Etiquette

Influenza viruses are thought to be spread mainly from person to person when an ill individual coughs or sneezes. Students and staff will be educated on the importance of covering their nose and mouth with a tissue when coughing or sneezing or to cough or sneeze into their upper sleeve, not their hands. Tissues will be readily available to students and staff. Tissues are to be immediately discarded after use. Students and staff will be encouraged to wash their hands after coughing or sneezing.

5. Routine Cleaning

The Charter School will regularly clean all areas and items that are more likely to have frequent hand contact (computers, desks, door knobs, etc.). The Charter School will also clean these areas immediately when visibly soiled.

The Charter School will ensure that custodial staff and other (such as classroom teachers) who use cleaners and disinfectants will read all instruction labels and understand safe and appropriate use.

- School buses, because of the enclosed space, may allow for easy spread of the flu. Tissues should be available on the buses, and students should be encouraged to cover nose and mouth while coughing or sneezing. Disinfect commonly handled interior surfaces (i.e. door handles, hand rails, etc.) between loads of students, if possible.

6. Absenteeism Monitoring

The Charter School will closely monitor the patterns of school absenteeism. It will be monitored on a daily basis and efforts should be made to determine if student or staff member is due to illness. Any increase in school absenteeism due to illness will be promptly reported to local and/or state public health authorities for an appropriate response.

7. Encourage Vaccinations

All students and staff will be encouraged to get vaccinated for the traditional influenza as well as H1N1.

There are three categories of exemptions from immunization :

- Medical exemption. Children are exempt from immunization if a physician or physician's designee provides a written statement that immunization may be detrimental to the health of the child.
- Religious exemption. Children are exempt from immunization if the parent, guardian or emancipated child objects in writing to the immunization based on contradiction to their religious beliefs.
- Philosophical/Strong Moral Ethical Conviction exemption. Children exempt from immunization if the parent or guardian or emancipated child objects in writing to the immunization based on personal beliefs.

TO THE EXTENT THAT ANYTHING IN THIS POLICY COULD BE CONSTRUED TO CONFLICT WITH THE SCHOOL'S CHARTER OR APPLICABLE STATE AND/OR FEDERAL LAWS, THE APPLICABLE STATE AND/OR FEDERAL LAWS AND/OR CHARTER CONTROL.

ADOPTED this day _____ of _____, 2015

President

Secretary