



Friday SDUC update

1 message

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Health of a Lion

**THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF
UNIVERSITY CITY**
Transform the Life of Every Student Every Day!

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Dear University City Schools Community:

We did it! Our K-6 staff, students and families worked together this week to create a joyful and safe return to in-person instruction in all four elementary schools and Brittany Woods Middle School. Cohort A students came back to their buildings last Monday, and Cohort B came back on Thursday. It was clear that despite some jitters, our returning students were beaming underneath their masks. Our new kindergarteners particularly shined as they took their first steps into their new classrooms.

Metrics and Contact Tracing

As of today, we have one active COVID-19 case among students who have returned to school buildings and seven students quarantined due to possible exposure. We have four active positive cases among staff who are currently isolated and recovering at home, and another nine staff members on quarantine at home due to exposure risk.

The School District of University City is committed to supporting an in-person instructional option for families and we need your help. Today, the St. Louis County Department of Public Health released more stringent guidelines for our community and we ask you to abide by them. You can review these orders [here](#). In addition, the Missouri Departments of Health and Senior Services and Elementary and Secondary Education communicated a change yesterday in procedures and guidelines for determining close contacts in schools based on mask-wearing. The School District of University City will not implement this new guidance and will continue to adhere to guidance from the St. Louis County Department of Public Health and the CDC.

Elementary & Sixth-grade Students Return

Since teachers returned to work and buildings on July 23, the district has had 17 positive cases and all were traced to transmission outside of school. It has also had 18 individuals quarantined. Details are available on the district's [COVID Dashboard](#).

Scheduling changes for the upcoming holiday - Safe, Gradual, and Kind

We must also look ahead toward fall and winter break. We know that many people will make travel plans or gather with family and friends. This can cause further increases in the rate of transmission of COVID-19.

The best way to remain safe is to wear masks, avoid groups and refrain from traveling over school breaks and holidays. Given current metrics, the District has decided to play it safe and create additional at home distance learning days both before and after the fall/Thanksgiving holiday. Research indicates it takes about 5 days for symptoms to show after a person has been infected with the virus. These calendar changes provide members of our school community with additional time to self-isolate and monitor themselves and their children for potential COVID-19 symptoms.

If you must travel during fall break, we ask you to return home by Saturday, Nov. 28 to limit risk of COVID-19 exposure prior to the return of in-person instruction.

Below is the revised learning schedule designed to increase safety during the fall break:

Monday, Nov. 23 and Tuesday, Nov. 24

- No in-person instruction: Cohort A will not come to school buildings. All students will do distance learning at home.

Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, Nov. 25 - Nov. 27

- NO SCHOOL: District closed for fall break

Monday, Nov. 30 and Tuesday, Dec. 1

- No in-person instruction: Cohort A will not come to school buildings. All students will do distance learning at home.

Wednesday, Dec. 2

- Regular distance learning day for all cohorts

Thursday, Dec. 3 and Friday, Dec. 4

- Cohort B returns to in-person instruction as planned.

Monday, Dec. 7

- Normal schedule resumes.

Strategically scheduling virtual instruction allows us to create a window after typically high travel times to isolate students and staff at home, and prevent COVID-19 spread in our U. City Schools community.

Also, **7th and 8th graders will not return to school on November 30.** We are reevaluating this date and more information will be shared very



soon. The parent webinar scheduled for November 18 is rescheduled for December 9, 2020.

We are so proud of our students and staff

One thing truly stood out to me this week: Our PreK-6 students back in school buildings did a fantastic job of keeping their masks on, washing their hands and properly distancing from one another. It was not a challenge for them, and I take their positive actions as a sign that our children want and are ready to be back in school. We also applaud the tremendous commitment displayed by our staff.



Thank you for your continued cooperation and efforts to keep our students and staff safe and healthy. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns at shardin@ucityschools.org or on my cell phone at 314-399-0941.

In Service of Our Children,

Sharonica Hardin-Bartley, Ph.D., PHR
Superintendent

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