



Friday updates: New COVID-19 testing available

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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Para leer en español haga clic [aquí](#).

Dear U. City Schools Community,

As we prepare for Winter Break and the new year, I wanted to share some exciting news with you. The School District of University City is part of a joint project by Washington University, St. Louis University and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) that will provide families and staff access to a new rapid saliva test that screens for COVID-19.

While previous research has reported on the rates of COVID-19 within schools and described different school-based mitigation strategies, there is a need to further explore rates of COVID-19 transmission within schools with different mitigation strategies and quarantine practices (e.g. enforcement of face mask and less restrictive quarantine policies). This information will help schools in Missouri develop strategies to decrease transmission of COVID-19 within schools and still allow as many students as safely possible to experience in-person education.

Participation will be available to any District family or staff member determined by contract tracing to have been in close contact with a COVID-19 positive individual. **Participation is purely voluntary.** Parents and staff who have been identified as close contacts with a positive individual (within 6 feet of a positive individual for more than 15 minutes during the day) will be contacted directly by the CDC and presented with the option to take the test. For those who consent, CDC health care providers can come directly to your home to swab your mouth to complete the pain-free test.

From my perspective, increased access to a rapid and non-invasive test helps to protect our entire U. City community. I do hope our school community takes advantage of this opportunity.

I have other news and updates to share:

- Parents of PreK-8 graders, **please remember to fill out your [student commitment form](#)** by next Thursday, Dec. 17 to let us know if your children will be doing in-person instruction or all-virtual instruction for the second semester. All parents of children in those grades are asked to complete the form to help us plan for staffing and curriculum.
- My next **Zoom with the Superintendent** sessions are scheduled for Wednesday, Dec. 16 at 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. Please register [here](#) to attend one or both sessions. Please join me if you have any questions regarding our plan for the new year.
- **Due to health and safety precautions on the heels of the holiday season, we will have all virtual learning Tuesday, Jan. 5-8, 2021.** Our hybrid in-person model resumes on Monday, Jan. 11, 2020.

I continue to urge all of you to wear your masks whenever you are in a public place or are around people outside of your bubble. I ask you not to plan travel during the break and refrain from large gatherings of any sort. Working together we can ensure our students are ready to safely return to school in the new year. You can reach me with any questions or concerns at shardin@ucityschools.org or by my cell phone at 314-399-4019.

In Service of Our Children,

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

ucityschools.org



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Middle & High School Virtual Winter Concert



UCHS AFJROTC Ceremony



PreK-8 Commitment Form Due Thurs., Dec. 17

IMPORTANT REMINDER
PreK through 8th-Grade Families

Please complete the online form at
www.ucityschools.org/PK-8Spring2021ParentSurvey

