An important update from the superintendent

Dear U. City Schools Families and Staff:

Today it was learned that two University City students are the grandchildren of the SSM Health St. Mary’s Hospital nurse who passed yesterday from the COVID-19 coronavirus.

After an extensive discussion with the St. Louis County Department of Public Health and a personal visit to the students’ household, I am letting you know that the risk of virus transmission to their household was very minimal. The grandmother lived apart from the family and the family had not been in contact with the grandmother since mid-February, well beyond the 14-day period currently recommended for those at high risk of being in contact with the virus.

The St. Louis County Department of Health currently does not consider any University City students to be a potential source of exposure to any other University City students, faculty or parents. I can further tell you, the students are healthy and doing fine. It is my intention to be as transparent and informative as I can for everyone’s well being. I know all of us are on edge, but I ask that you respect the privacy of the family while they are in mourning.

I also want to remind you that the District’s Grab & Go meal program is set to begin this Monday, March 23. Please note this program is considered an essential service and is exempt from the new executive “Stay at Home” order from St. Louis County scheduled to go into effect Monday. Families are still allowed to leave their homes by car or foot to pick-up the meals at our five locations: Barbara C. Jordan, Flynn Park, Jackson Park, Pershing and Brittany Woods.

Please feel free to contact me by email at shardin@ucityschools.org or by phone at 314-399-0941 if you have any questions.

In Service of Our Children,

Sharonica Hardin-Bartley, PhD, PHR
Superintendent