Happy New Year and updates

1 message

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Good afternoon U. City Schools Parents and Caregivers,

First, a very happy New Year to you! I hope you were able to rest and have some rewarding extra time together with your loved ones even during these difficult weeks.

We will resume classes, as scheduled, on Tuesday, January 4 on our regular schedule. We are ready to greet your children with compassion, love and safety.

This weekend, I have been in contact with our medical consultants at Washington University School of Medicine and with area superintendents. At this point, we are in agreement that students should return to in-person instruction as scheduled to preserve learning continuity and social emotional wellness. We know that the newest variant of the virus is causing another concerning spike in infections. Additionally, there are new federal recommendations regarding isolation for active cases. Our medical partners assure us that we have highly effective mitigation strategies in place to continue with classroom instruction and most activities.

**Coronavirus protocols**

Here are some health reminders and a few updates as we return to school:

- Mandatory masking remains in place for all school buildings in grades K-12.
- We highly recommend that you and your household members get tested for COVID-19 if anyone is experiencing symptoms that include a runny nose, sore throat and/or fatigue. Testing is also recommended if you are aware that you or anyone in your household has been in contact with someone who has tested positive within the past seven days.
- We ask that you contact your school nurses tomorrow, January 3, if you or anyone in your household has tested positive within the past 5 days or has experienced coronavirus symptoms within the past five days.
- Please, do not send your child to school if he or she is not feeling well. Instead, get them tested as soon as possible. Please keep your school nurse updated.
During Winter Break, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) changed its isolation recommendations from 10 to five days for those who test positive. We will continue with our existing protocols, minimally for this week. If it is deemed appropriate, our contact tracers will integrate these new guidelines into our protocols, however, please remember, every individual is evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

The COVID-19 Dashboard will be updated on Monday evening to reflect our most up-to-date information regarding active cases and quarantines.

Key contacts
Please click here for school contact information, including individual school nurses.

More resources
For more details and information regarding the coronavirus, the St. Louis County Department of Health has released two new documents:

- Public Health Advisory (12/29/21)
- Updated Isolation and Quarantine Guidance (12/29/21)

I know this is a lot to take in as we start our second half of the school year. I remain honored to serve our staff, students and families. This break again reminded me of the power of connection and how very important each and every one of us is in the beautiful web of community we’ve woven together. I walk fully into this new year with you with guts, grace and gratitude.

In Service of Our Children,

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

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