



# UNIVERSAL FAMILY OF SCHOOLS

Universal Alcorn • Universal Audenried • Universal Bluford  
Universal Creighton • Universal Daroff • Universal Institute • Universal Vare

January 15, 2022

Dear Universal Staff and Families:

I hope you had a restful and enjoyable holiday break. We are excited to return to in-person learning for all scholars and staff effective January 18, 2022. Universal took the necessary precautions and moved to Virtual learning from January 3, 2022- January 14, 2022, due to the rise in COVID-19 cases in Philadelphia County and nationwide.

**As we prepare to reopen on January 18, 2022**, there is an understandable concern about the continued impact of the Omicron variant. As we have in the past, we will adapt practices and adhere to the guidance that will prioritize the health and safety of our scholars and staff. We understand the value of in-person instruction while emphasizing the need for mitigation strategies.

Universal Schools will continue the following health and safety measures:

- **Masking**. We will require universal masking indoors for all scholars, staff, and visitors, regardless of vaccination status. Schools will provide masks to all scholars and staff.
- **COVID-19 Symptoms-** We will require scholars and staff experiencing Covid-19 symptoms to leave the school and get a COVID-test immediately. Families and staff must communicate test results to the school nurse and principal. Testing sites are listed below.
- **Vaccination**. Vaccination remains the leading public health prevention strategy to end the COVID-19 pandemic. We strongly encourage all eligible people to get the vaccine.
  - **Staff Vaccination and Weekly Testing:** Employees who are not vaccinated will be required to be tested weekly. We are also offering weekly testing for all staff.
- **Additional safety measures** around gatherings, cleaning, hand sanitizing, and ventilation will be in effect. With all scholars returning to an in-person program, physical distancing will be at a 3-foot distance to the extent practicable. In addition to the details in the Health and Safety Plan, some building procedures and protocols will be modified for safety purposes.
- **COVID-19 Test Kits-** Beginning Wednesday, January 19, 2022, you can order free rapid COVID-19 test kits through the government at the following website [www.covidtests.gov](http://www.covidtests.gov). A total of four test kits can be ordered per household.
- **Additional Resources and Guidance**
  - CDC guidance can be found [HERE](#).
  - American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) guidance can be found [HERE](#).
  - Testing sites are listed below.



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| <b>South Philadelphia Testing Sites</b>                   | <b>West Philadelphia Testing Sites</b>   | <b>Northeast Philadelphia Testing Sites</b>          |
|---|--|--|
| Vybe Urgent Care<br>1217 S. Broad St.<br>Phila., PA 19147 | Drexel Mobile:<br>Overbrook Park Library<br>7422 Haverford Ave.<br>Phila., PA 19151                  | Rite Aid<br>5694 Rising Sun Ave.<br>Phila., PA 19120 |
| CVS Pharmacy<br>1001 Washington Ave. Phila.,<br>PA 19147  | Drexel Mobile: Parkside<br>Association of Phila.<br>1719 N. 52 <sup>nd</sup> St.<br>Phila., PA 19151 | Rite Aid<br>8130 Roosevelt Blvd.<br>Phila., PA 19152 |
| CVS Pharmacy<br>1901 W. Oregon Ave.<br>Phila., PA 19147   |  | Rite Aid<br>2545 Aramingo Ave.<br>Phila., PA 19125   |

We look forward to welcoming our scholars and staff back to school on January 18, 2022. I appreciate your cooperation, support, and patience as we work together during this challenging time to provide effective, high-quality education while prioritizing safety for all scholars and staff.

Sincerely,

Dr. Nixon

Penny Nixon, Ed.D.  
Superintendent/CEO