

Re: Holiday Break Return to School Update 2022

Dear APS Families and Stakeholders,

We are excited to welcome our staff and students back after this much needed holiday break. As we prepare to come back, we want to make sure everyone is safe in our learning environment. As you have likely seen in your community or heard in the media, our area is currently experiencing a spike in positive cases of COVID-19. Also, you likely read about some updates from APS Superintendent Dr. Lisa Herring. I'd like to reiterate a few of the points Dr. Herring shared in her memo:

Return to Classrooms and Offices

- The district will reopen on **Monday, January 3, 2022**, with mandatory surveillance testing for all employees. This will be a professional learning day for teachers and employees.
- Classes will resume for students on **Tuesday, January 4, 2022**.

COVID-19 Surveillance Testing Strongly Encouraged for Students

- In our continued effort to ensure the safety of our schools and the continued health and well-being of our students, we strongly encourage you to have your child/children tested – either before they return to school or as a participant in our surveillance testing program offered at each school site on their school's scheduled day.
- Heritage Academy surveillance testing will take place on Thursday, Jan. 6, 2022 for the week of January 3-7, 2021. And every Thursday on a weekly basis moving forward. If you have not provided consent, need to renew expired consent or would like your child/children to participate in surveillance testing, please find the link to our surveillance testing consent form here:
<http://tinyURL.com/HealthyAPS>.

Aggressive Mitigation Strategies

- We will continue with our strict COVID-19 mitigation protocols, which include mandatory testing twice a week for employees, voluntary testing for students, and mandatory masks for everyone inside an APS school or office building along with frequent handwashing and the use of hand sanitizer.

Additionally, here are more key health and safety reminders:

Stay Home When Sick

- Maintaining public health measures such as staying home when you are sick, physical distancing, hand washing and mask wearing are very important to reduce the likelihood of both getting and transmitting COVID-19 in our schools. To ensure the continued safety of our students and staff, parents are reminded to complete the daily health screenings of their children each morning via HealthCheck before sending them to school each day and monitor for symptoms.
- Students or staff who are ill or presenting with any symptom of COVID-19 should always remain home. Additionally, if a student tests positive with COVID-19 or is determined to be a close contact of someone who has tested positive, parents should continue to use our [self-report form](#) to properly notify school officials. Employees should report positive cases or close contacts using the [staff self-report](#) link as well.

Our school is committed to continuing to follow our established health and safety protocols. Thank you for your commitment to keeping our school safe and healthy. Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Trennis A. Harvey

Principal