



UNIVERSITY LABORATORY SCHOOL

A Hawai'i Public Charter School
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January 3, 2022

Dear ULS Community,

Happy New Year! We hope you and your families had a restful holiday and were able to spend time with your loved ones. As we welcome students back into our classrooms from a well-deserved winter break, our priority continues to be the health and safety of our students, families, and staff. To this end, it is important to review our current health and safety measures to ensure the health and safety of our community.

The ULS Admin Team has been carefully following developments in our state regarding the new, more transmissible omicron variant. Omicron is more transmissible than previous variants of COVID-19. Individuals who are vaccinated and boosted, while susceptible to breakthrough infections, tend to experience mild, cold-like symptoms. Reported data indicates that infections due to the omicron variant are typically less severe than those due to previous COVID-19 variants. Unvaccinated individuals, however, remain at high risk for serious illness from omicron and other forms of COVID-19. While no environment is one hundred percent risk-free, ULS' health policies and vaccination rate support our commitment to full, in-person learning when school resumes on Tuesday, January 4.

COVID-19 Testing

To keep our school communities safe, we encourage students to get tested regularly for COVID-19 regardless of vaccination status, through a PCR, lab-based rapid test, or a home test kit, as part of the steps to help stop the spread of COVID-19 and keep our school open for in-person learning. Testing can be done by either using an at-home rapid antigen test or by visiting one of the many free [testing sites island-wide](#). If the test result is positive, you must report it to the health@universitylaboratoryschool.org, and you will be instructed on next steps.

Health and Safety

We would like to remind all parents to please keep your child at home when not feeling well. If there are people in your household that are sick (siblings, parents, or extended family members), keep your child home even though they themselves may not be sick. Email attendance to report the situation and absence. We will respond with our clearance protocols. Students should not come to school if they or someone in the household is awaiting COVID-19 test results due to being symptomatic or being exposed to a positive case. If the test result is positive, notify the school right away by emailing health@universitylaboratoryschool.org at any time (nights, weekends, week days) and we will respond with our COVID-19 protocols. Please refer to the [ULS Student/Parent Handbook](#) on the Resources page of the school website for up-to-date information on school policies and procedures in regards to health and safety.

Additional health and safety information

- **Daily Health Check-in:** Beginning on Tuesday, January 4, we also ask that you resume conducting a daily symptom check at home and complete the LumiSight check-in app each morning before bringing your child to school. LumiSight is an important part of our health and safety measures this year. Staying home when sick is a vital part of keeping our community safe. Signs of omicron include: cough, runny or stuffy nose, sore throat, fatigue, and headache.

- **Mask enforcement:** All students and employees are required to wear a properly-fitting face mask that completely covers their nose and mouth while on campus in all indoor and outdoor spaces, except while actively eating or drinking. Symptoms of the omicron variant appear to be focused in the nose, mouth and throat, further emphasizing the importance of a well-fitting mask. Masks will be available for students as needed.
- **Avoid gatherings:** During the foreseeable future, please avoid gatherings with those outside your household, continue to wear masks, and practice social distancing as much as possible.
- **After an exposure:**
 - Vaccinated students who are considered to have been in close contact with an infected individual ○ Do not need to be quarantined if asymptomatic; and ○ must submit a negative test result from a state approved testing facility to be cleared to return to school. ○ Fully vaccinated individuals should test 3-5 days after notification of exposure. ○ ULS will determine the return to school date and communicate with parents.
 - Unvaccinated students and staff who are close contacts of a person with COVID-19 infection must quarantine for 10 days and get tested 3-5 days after notification of exposure. Unvaccinated students and staff who are close contacts can return to school when both of the following conditions are met: ○ Completed the 10 day quarantine period as determined by internal school protocols. ○ No symptoms have developed. ULS will determine the return to school date and communicate with parents. A negative COVID-19 test or a clinician's note is not needed to return to school if both conditions above have been met.
 - The School is currently reviewing the policy on quarantine in light of the recent changes announced by the CDC and Hawaii State Department of Health. We are waiting on official details before determining the impact on our existing policies and procedures. Learning assignments and teacher support will be provided to these students, but distance learning is not an option at this time.
- **Accommodations:** The health and safety of our community is our highest priority. Students who are not feeling well should stay home. We will work with students to find reasonable accommodations or reschedule any missed work as a result of absence due to illness.
- **Notifications:** We will continue to immediately notify families if their child has been exposed and needs to test or quarantine.
- **Illness at school:** Any student or employee who shows symptoms of a contagious illness will be sent home immediately.
- **Athletics changes:** The ILH has decided to postpone increasing spectators at sporting events and will maintain the current allowance of two spectators per student athlete. Spectators will need to be vaccinated and wear a mask that covers their mouth and nose at all times. We will also begin testing all student athletes and coaches before every ILH game, and student athletes will need to wear masks at all indoor and outdoor practices and competitions.
- **Get vaccinated:** We urge everyone 5 years and older to get vaccinated as soon as possible, and for those who are 16 and older to get their booster dose if it is more than 6 months since their 2nd dose. As boosters become approved for those ages 12 – 15 years old, we also recommend that students who meet the eligibility criteria seek a booster shot. Please share any updated vaccination status by email health@universitylaboratoryschool.org
- **Consult your primary care physician:** If you experience COVID symptoms, believe you have been exposed to an infected individual, or have any other questions about your health, seek medical advice from your healthcare provider.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. Working together and with everyone doing their part, we can look forward to a successful start to the new year.

Sincerely,

A. Keoni Jeremiah
Principal