



January 3, 2022

Dear GEC Family:

Happy New Year to our entire GEC community! I hope this communication finds everyone doing well and having a safe and healthy winter break. Today I am writing to share with you an update in our return to school operations that is in alignment with guidance provided by OSSE, Mayor Bowser, and DCPS. As you know, the first day of the term does not begin until **Thursday, January 6th**. You will hear from your coach throughout this week about your Term 3 schedule.

The health and safety of our community is a top priority. As such, to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19 after winter break, we are taking the following actions and precautions:

- Shifting most activities the week of January 3rd to Teams for our staff
- Holding classes on the first day of Term 3, January 6th, virtually (on Teams)
- **Requiring** all staff, regardless of vaccination status, to obtain a PCR Test between January 2nd and January 9th
- **Requiring** rapid antigen tests provided by DC Health to be taken by any student who returns on site from winter break on their first day back in the building
- Continuing weekly PCR testing provided by Shield T3 for students and unvaccinated staff

Every student who comes into the GEC building the week of January 10th will be required to take a COVID rapid antigen test prior to beginning classes. The rapid antigen tests have been provided to us by DC Health.

Of course, we will continue to follow all Health and Safety protocols on site. The most important reminder is if you feel sick or have any symptoms the day you are scheduled to be at GEC, do not come to GEC and contact your Academic Success Coach. Additionally, if you have been exposed to COVID-19 or are a close contact of someone with COVID-19, reach out to your Academic Success Coach before coming to GEC for guidance.

Per our COVID protocols, we ask that if you do take a PCR or rapid antigen test on your own and it is positive, please report this immediately to your Academic Success Coach who will then notify our COVID response team. Our COVID response team will complete the next steps with contact tracing and notify the GEC community as well as DC Health.



The GEC building will reopen on Wednesday, January 5th for Term 3 set up. **Term 3 classes begin on Thursday, January 6th and we will hold all classes this day virtually on Teams.** We will continue to follow OSSE, DC Health, and Mayor Bowser's guidance and monitor our community's health and safety. **As of right now, we will return to our cohort operations on Monday, January 10th with the GEC building reopening to all students and staff.**

Again, health and safety are always our priority as we strive to ensure a safe environment for our entire community. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions.

I wish everyone an excellent start to the New Year, and we are looking forward to Term 3! On behalf of the GEC staff, we thank you for your dedication and commitment to your GEC journey.

Sincerely,

Dr. Chelsea Kirk

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