

August 6, 2021

Michael Zeleny
Chief of Staff and Associate to the Chancellor
University of Nebraska- Lincoln
201 ADMS
Lincoln, NE 68588

Dear Mr. Zeleny,

The Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department (LLCHD) appreciates the collaborative working relationship with the University of Nebraska (UNL) throughout the COVID-19 Pandemic. As discussed, the Delta variant has created concerns for the 2021 Fall Semester.

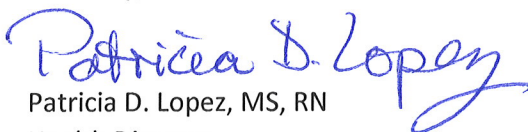
LLCHD and UNL COVID Teams worked together to evaluate various testing options to ensure that as students from all across Nebraska, the nation, and the world return this Fall, the health of the community and UNL students, faculty, and staff is protected. This included reviewing lessons learned from last year, testing conducted in the Spring of 2021, evaluating COVID-19 testing strategies employed by other colleges across the nation, and reviewing updated guidance from the CDC.

Based on this assessment, the LLCHD is recommending the University of Nebraska implement a mandatory testing strategy involving all students, faculty and staff using a saliva-based test. As proven in the Spring, this will enhance the immediate identification of asymptomatic COVID-19 positive individuals upon return to the UNL campus, enabling rapid response to stop outbreaks while reducing the need to quarantine large numbers of students. The LLCHD is recommending an initial single round of testing of all students, faculty and staff followed by regular and/or random testing of those not known to be fully vaccinated throughout the semester. This strategy will protect both the UNL and the Lincoln and Lancaster County community by preventing spread

For these reasons the LLCHD will require all University of Nebraska faculty, staff, and students in Lancaster County participating in on-campus instruction, activities, or employment to participate in the testing.

If you have any questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,



Patricia D. Lopez, MS, RN
Health Director

