December 7, 2020

Mr. Michael Zeleny  
Chief of Staff and Associate to the Chancellor  
University of Nebraska - Lincoln  
201 ADMS  
Lincoln, NE 68588-0419

Dear Mr. Zeleny,

The Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department (LLCHD) has worked collaboratively with the University of Nebraska – Lincoln throughout the COVID-19 Pandemic. As we looked forward to planning for the Spring semester, we considered lessons learned from the Fall, evaluated COVID-19 testing strategies employed by other colleges and universities across the nation, and reviewed updated guidance from the CDC. 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 returned in the Spring, the health of our community and that of UNL students, faculty and staff was protected.

Based on that evaluation, LLCHD recommended that UNL develop a mandatory testing strategy involving all students, faculty and staff using a saliva based rapid PCR methodology. This testing strategy will enhance the immediate identification of asymptomatic students that are positive upon return to UNL, enabling more rapid response to stopping outbreaks before they occur, reducing the need to quarantine large numbers of students, and preventing spread of COVID-19 in our community as a whole. The strategy will also allow ongoing testing throughout the semester of the entire UNL community ensuring persons with COVID-19 are identified quickly and can isolate immediately preventing spread in the Lincoln and Lancaster County community.

If you have any questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
Patricia D. Lopez, MS, RN  
Health Director