

CLARK  
UNIVERSITY



## News from HR

February 16, 2022



As **Black History Month** continues, we encourage you to stop by Goddard Library to check out their display, “Before the Movement was Mainstream,” which features books about the Black history, art, and culture of early-20th century America. In addition, mark your calendars for [“Unsaid Prayers,”](#) a concert featuring the world premiere of a work — commissioned by Cailin Marcel Manson, associate professor of practice and director of music performance at Clark — written during the pandemic in the aftermath of the death of George Floyd. The concert will take place at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, February 25, in Razzo Hall (Traina Center for the Arts); you also will be able [watch a livestream of the concert.](#) This free event is sponsored by the Music Program and the Higgins School of Humanities.

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### Register Now for Feb. 17 Presentation on New Building

All Clark employees are invited and encouraged to attend a presentation tomorrow, February 17, from 3 to 4 p.m., about the in-progress design of Clark’s new interdisciplinary academic building. Tentatively called the Media Arts, Computing, and Design Center, the facility will offer new collaborative and classroom space to benefit the entire University, and also will be home to the Department of Computer Science, the Becker School of Design & Technology, and certain programs within the Department of Visual and Performing Arts.

[Please register by noon on February 17](#) for the presentation, which will be held via Zoom.

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## Reminder: Care.com Webinar is Tomorrow, February 17

All Clark employees are now eligible for a free membership to Care.com, which provides access to Care@Work and Life Mart benefits as well as many helpful articles and guides. **Have you signed up yet?** Please attend a [special webinar for Clark employees](#) on Thursday, February 17, from 12:30 to 1:15 p.m., to learn about the benefits offered by this free membership.

[Sign up for your free Care.com membership »](#)

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## COVID-19 Policy Changes Beginning February 21

As previously announced, several changes to Clark's COVID-19 protocols will go into effect on Monday, February 21:

- We will return to the hybrid remote work policies that were in place during the fall semester and lift our request that, to help reduce density on campus, non-student facing staff work remotely. Employees should check with their supervisors for guidance in determining work modes.
- Students will be required to test every 7 days, rather than the current requirement of once every 3 days. **Testing for faculty and staff will remain at once every 7 days.** Anyone who wishes to test more frequently may do so.

[Read the full message to the community »](#)

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## Family and Medical Leave Plan Updates for 2022

Clark University's [Paid Family and Medical Leave \(PFML\) plan](#) provides paid leave for employees who need to deal with a serious health condition or care for a qualified family member, eliminating the need to use accumulated time off in these situations. These benefits meet or exceed those [required by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts](#), and the definition of a qualified family member is broader than the federal FMLA definition. Administered by the Prudential Insurance Company, PFML leave allotments vary based on the reason for the leave.

[Learn more »](#)

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## ASEC 3rd Floor Is Now Fragrance-Free

We'd like to inform the campus community that the third floor of the Shaich Family Alumni and Student Engagement Center has been designated a **fragrance-free zone**. As a courtesy, and out of respect for the health and safety of those with allergies, please refrain from using any scented products (including personal hygiene products, room sprays, scented oil dispensers, etc.) on this floor. We appreciate your thoughtfulness.

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## Volunteer to Reach Out to Students in Isolation

The Dean of Students Office is seeking **COVID CARE Callers** to connect with residential students who have tested positive for COVID-19 and are in their five-day isolation period. Through calls and text messages, you will answer students' questions, provide information about services available to them, and serve as a personal resource during their isolation.

This is not a huge time commitment, but certainly one with big results. Students appreciate the kind call and connection — please consider volunteering. [Email Becca Kitchell](#), associate dean for student CARE, to sign up.

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## Looking for Ways to Connect with Your Colleagues?

**[Staff Assembly User Groups](#)** are a great place to ask questions of your fellow Clark staff members. Have questions about a specific Clark process or system? Looking for Excel tips and tricks? Wondering how someone in a similar role handled a certain type of situation?

The different channels, set up as channels within Microsoft Teams, provide a multitude of opportunities to connect with your colleagues, and not only about work. Go ahead and share your favorite recipe in the Virtual Watercooler or get ideas for where to get lunch around campus.

If you have suggestions for future channels, go to the "General" conversation and let us know, or [email SASC](#). You also are always welcome to email us with comments or concerns that you'd like the Steering Committee to discuss and/or bring to Clark's Senior Leadership; if you'd rather submit a question or comment anonymously, feel free to [fill out our anonymous form](#).

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## Avoid Falls in Snow and Ice

The weather in New England is often unpredictable — relatively warm one day, below freezing the next. Whether from rain or melting snow, puddles can quickly turn to ice that can be difficult to see (especially when covered by a thin layer of fresh snow). Here are a few ways to keep yourself safe when walking around campus for the rest of winter.

- **Wear proper footwear** with soles that provide sufficient traction. Leather-soled shoes can be dangerous in winter.
  - **Take extra care when entering and exiting vehicles.** When getting in and out of a car, all our weight is on one foot, which is less stable than when we have both feet on the ground. Hold on to the car door or steering wheel for extra stability.
  - **Slow down** when walking across parking lots or on walkways — you'll be more likely to spot hazards like black ice. If you find yourself in an icy area, do your best to keep both feet on the ground and “shuffle” to a safe surface.
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## Resources and Opportunities

- [Find previous employee newsletters »](#)
- Questions about Clark's COVID procedures and protocols? Email [covid-19-info@clarku.edu](mailto:covid-19-info@clarku.edu)
- Specific questions about your testing cadence? Email [covid-19-testing@clarku.edu](mailto:covid-19-testing@clarku.edu)
- LinkedIn Learning offers a vast catalog of courses covering technical and professional skills, as well as personal development. [Learn more »](#)
- The University's ombudsperson, Israela Brill-Cass, is an informal, confidential, neutral, and independent resource for staff and faculty who want to discuss any topic without fear of retaliation or judgment. [Learn more and make an appointment »](#)
- Clark's Employee Assistance Program provides confidential, free assessments and referral services for legal and financial consultations, childcare, crisis support, mental health treatment, lifestyle coaching, substance abuse treatment, and more. Visit [New Directions Behavioral Health](#); our company code is “Clark University.”
- Visit [ClarkNow](#) for the latest news from campus, and check out where Clark faculty and staff experts appear [in the media](#).
- Learn about employment opportunities at Clark by visiting the [Job Opportunities](#) page on the [Office of Human Resources](#) website.