



August 13, 2021

Hello, SUSD Parents and Guardians,

Being back in school for a mere eight days already illustrates the challenges Scottsdale Unified and all education entities worldwide, public and private, are faced with this school year: how to maintain safe, in-person learning opportunities in a time when a virus variant is ravaging our communities.

As Superintendent Dr. Scott Menzel noted in a separate communication earlier today, unlike last school year, we are now seeing evidence that the virus has spread at some of our schools. Since we resumed in-person instruction last week, there have been:

- 78 on-campus, confirmed cases of COVID
- 31 confirmed cases among students who did not come to school
- 150 symptomatic students sent home
- 632 students quarantined as close contacts, in compliance with orders of the Maricopa County Department of Public Health.

As our partner in helping keep classrooms and schools COVID-free, it is imperative that you keep your students home if they are showing any COVID-like symptoms. In review, major symptoms include 1) fever or chills, 2) cough, 3) shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, 4) fatigue, 5) muscle or body aches, 6) headache, 7) new loss of taste or smell, 8) sore throat, congestion or runny nose, 9) nausea or vomiting and 10) diarrhea.

If your student is exhibiting any of these symptoms, we cannot emphasize enough how important it is that you speak to your school nurse *before* sending your student to school that day. Our nursing professionals will be able to provide you with guidance on next steps. In just one week, nurses have already had to send home 150 symptomatic students.

It is equally important that you notify your school nurse if your child is a close contact of a COVID-positive person or if someone in your household has tested positive for COVID-19. For everyone's safety and well-being, we are counting on you to be forthcoming.

To reiterate, SUSD strongly recommends that all students, teachers and staff, regardless of vaccination status, wear a mask while indoors at school, consistent with guidance from the CDC and ADHS. SUSD also strongly recommends that all students 12 and older be vaccinated against COVID.

Pooled Testing

Unlike last school year, when we had the legal authority to require that students, teachers and staff wear masks on campus, that tool is no longer authorized by the state as a district mitigation strategy. Earlier this week, we distributed a survey to parents, aimed at helping us determine if school-based, pooled COVID-19 testing of students is a new tool the district should consider adding as a mitigation strategy to help identify school outbreak hotspots.

Learn more about pooled testing [here](#). If you have not yet taken part in the survey, you can still do so at <https://survey.k12insight.com/r/YARJEd>. We appreciate your guidance. As mentioned in the survey notification, your taking part in the survey does not constitute your granting permission for your student to be tested. It is only a poll to gauge parent interest.

Two New Opportunities for Your Involvement

- ***ESSER Survey and New Committee Information***

The American Rescue Plan Act was signed into law, dedicating funds for K-12 schools through the Elementary and Secondary School Education Relief (ESSER) III funds. As a result, Scottsdale Unified School District is eligible to receive one-time federal funds through the ESSER III program to be spent prior to September 30, 2024, to address expenses and learning loss associated with the COVID-19 pandemic.

An **ESSER Survey** has been developed to gain stakeholder input on how to utilize these federal funds to best meet the needs of SUSD students and families. Access the survey and provide your input [here](#). Additionally, an ESSER Committee is being formed to review and evaluate spending proposals that are submitted for consideration. If you are interested in becoming a member of this panel, please complete [the interest form](#) by August 23.

- ***COVID ICS Emergency Response Subcommittee***

COVID ICS Emergency Response Subcommittee members work to overcome challenges and optimize opportunities to support SUSD teaching and learning, safety and mitigation, and social emotional support during the COVID-19 pandemic. These subgroups began meeting in the spring of 2020, and their work continues. The subcommittee is now seeking new members to fill openings due to transition and to offer and encourage opportunities to bring new voices to the table. Participants can expect to meet twice a month, with each meeting lasting approximately 90 minutes. Additional meetings may be scheduled, if needed.

- Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Subcommittee

Purpose: To develop social-emotional support opportunities based on our current reality in order to meet the needs of the SUSD community.

- Teaching and Learning Subcommittee

Purpose: To develop viable options for instruction, based on our current reality, in order to optimize teaching and learning.

- Logistics and Operations Subcommittee

Purpose: To develop and implement strategies that prioritizes the safety of students and staff in order to continue to provide in-person instruction.

Express your interest in serving on an ICS subcommittee by completing and submitting the [interest form](#) by August 23.

We are grateful for your ongoing partnership with SUSD.

Scottsdale Unified School District [Cabinet](#) and [Leadership Team](#)

Community COVID-19 Testing and Vaccination Resources

SUSD continues to partner with Embry Women’s Health, which operates a [COVID testing site](#) at our Oak Learning Academy campus, 7501 E. Oak St., Scottsdale. The site is open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Friday. Embry also has two other drive-thru COVID-19 testing facilities in our community:

- Chaparral Business Center, 8840 E. Chaparral Rd., Scottsdale – open from 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., 7 days a week
- Phoenix Camelback Seventh-day Adventist Church, 5902 E. Camelback Rd., Phoenix – open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday thru Friday

COVID-19 vaccinations are widely available throughout our community at both stand-alone pharmacies, such as Walgreen’s and CVS, and at pharmacies located inside major grocery stores. They also do COVID testing on-site.

Albertsons: <https://www.albertsons.com/pharmacy/covid-19.html>

Costco: <https://www.costco.com/covid-vaccine.html>

CVS: <https://www.cvs.com/immunizations/covid-19-vaccine?icid=cvs-home-hero1-link1-coronavirus-vaccine>

Fry’s: <https://www.frysfood.com/rx/covid-eligibility>

Ranch Pharmacy: 10769 N. Frank Lloyd Wright Blvd., Scottsdale

Safeway: <https://www.safeway.com/pharmacy/covid-19.html>

Walgreens: <https://www.walgreens.com/topic/promotion/covid-vaccine.jsp>

Other community vaccination resources:

NOAH - Neighborhood Outreach Access to Health: <https://noahhelps.org/covid-vaccine/>

Maricopa County Department of Public Health COVID-19 Vaccine

Locations: <https://www.maricopa.gov/5659/COVID-19-Vaccine-Locations>

Arizona Department of Health Services COVID-19 Vaccine

Locations: <https://www.azdhs.gov/covid19/vaccines/index.php#find-vaccines>