Scottsdale *Unified* School District

Engaging all students in world-class, future-focused learning

August 13, 2021

Dear SUSD Parents and Staff:

We have been receiving many questions and concerns regarding the quarantine process and the provision of educational services and support during quarantine. The following information is designed to help answer those questions.

Quarantine Requirements and Instructional Process

The authority to require isolation and quarantine is provided for in Arizona Statute, as follows:

ARS 36-624. Quarantine and sanitary measures to prevent contagion
When a county health department or public health services district is apprised that infectious or contagious disease exists within its jurisdiction, it shall immediately make an investigation. If the investigation discloses that the disease does exist, the county health department or public health services district may adopt quarantine and sanitary measures consistent with department rules and sections 36-788 and 36-789 to prevent the spread of the disease. The county health department or public health services district shall immediately notify the department of health services of the existence and nature of the disease and measures taken concerning it.

AAC R9-6-361. Novel Coronavirus (e.g., SARS or MERS)
A. Case control measures:
   1. A diagnosing health care provider or an administrator of a health care institution, either personally or through a representative, shall isolate and institute both airborne precautions and contact precautions for a novel coronavirus case or suspect case, including a case or suspect case of severe acute respiratory syndrome or Middle East respiratory syndrome, until evaluated and determined to be noninfectious by a physician, physician assistant, or registered nurse practitioner.
   2. A local health agency shall:
      a. Upon receiving a report under R9-6-202 of a novel coronavirus case or suspect case, notify the Department within 24 hours after receiving the report and provide to the Department the information contained in the report;
      b. In consultation with the Department, ensure that isolation and both airborne precautions and contact precautions have been instituted for a novel coronavirus case or suspect case to prevent transmission;
      c. Conduct an epidemiologic investigation of each reported novel coronavirus case or suspect case; and
      d. For each novel coronavirus case, submit to the Department, as specified in Table 2.4, the information required under R9-6-206(D).

B. Contact control measures:
A local health agency, in consultation with the Department, shall determine which novel coronavirus contacts will be quarantined or excluded, according to R9-6-303, to prevent transmission.

This week, the Maricopa County Department of Public Health (MCDPH) confirmed that quarantine of close contacts is **required**. Its letter for close contacts states: "**Per MCDPH, and in accordance with CDC and ADHS guidance, close contacts who *are not fully vaccinated* or *have not tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 90 days* are to quarantine (stay) at home for *up to 10 days*.**"

The specific guidance and quarantine flow chart can be found here. The important point is that the district is obligated to follow the direction from our local public health department, MCDPH, or risk being taken to court for failure to comply. The Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) has provided a useful presentation to help explain isolation and quarantine requirements and the applicable Arizona laws.

Given the increasing number of students who are being required to quarantine, the next concern expressed by families relates to educational services during quarantine. SUSD's Teaching and Learning team has

been updating resources and supports for teachers, and has provided an explanation of available services below. The initial expectation was that the numbers would not be as high this school year and that support for those who were sick or quarantined would follow the normal process for when a student is absent as a result of illness. However, with the significant number of students already being quarantined, the team moved to operationalize a more robust plan of support while not unduly burdening teachers as we start the new school year.

Supporting Students in Quarantine

Although we are using a variety of layered mitigation strategies to minimize the risk of COVID transmission in our schools, it may be necessary for some students to quarantine as determined by MCDPH, as discussed earlier in this letter.

Our team has been working on innovative ways to support students who are temporarily at home because of quarantine or are ill due to COVID or a COVID-like illness. During their absence from in-person learning, students will be provided access to instructional materials and support to continue their learning while at home.

Why are schools not offering EDL?
For parents wanting a full-time, virtual learning option, we continue to offer Scottsdale Online, which incorporates the best practices from last school year's Enhanced Distance Learning (EDL) program.

The quarantine time frame is limited, so we are prioritizing support for students in quarantine in a way that allows students to remain aligned with their classroom instruction and that supports their reintegration into the classroom when they return.

What will the support look like?
The baseline of support will come from the classroom teacher, who will supply instructional materials through a learning management system, i.e. Google Classroom and/or Microsoft TEAMS. This support will include strategies such as use of classroom technology, interactive lessons, streaming key components of direct instruction and/or recorded instructional videos from the classroom instruction.

In addition, students in quarantine will have access to three sessions of live, virtual, small-group tutoring per week. Secondary students will have access to three tutoring sessions per week for each "core" class (English Language Arts, Math, Social Studies, and Science) for a total of 12 sessions per week. If tutoring is not available with the classroom teacher or a school-site designee, students will be able to engage with tutoring through Varsity Tutors, a trusted SUSD partner.

We know that the quarantine process is disruptive for both students and teachers. Our goal is to provide targeted supports to minimize the negative impact of quarantine. We are also working with our staff to provide more flexibility with respect to timelines for submission of homework and projects for those who are COVID-positive or quarantined as close contacts.

Sincerely,

SUSD Cabinet/Administrative Leadership