



September 27, 2021

Good evening, Scottsdale Unified School District Families,

This afternoon, Maricopa County Superior Court Judge Katherine Cooper ruled that it is unconstitutional for the state of Arizona to prohibit school districts from enacting face mask requirements.

As we noted to you in last Friday's parent update, the SUSD Governing Board has provided SUSD Superintendent Dr. Scott Menzel, in consultation with the Maricopa County Department of Public Health (MCDPH), with the authority to determine whether the current mask requirement should be maintained or re-issued.

***As a result, SUSD will continue to require masks for students and staff while indoors on our campuses and other district facilities until at least two weeks after we have returned from Fall Break (October 11 - 15).***

This decision is consistent with the recommendations of MCDPH, the Arizona Department of Health Services and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention regarding universal masking while community transmission of COVID remains at an elevated level, which it currently is and has been in SUSD since the end of July.

Our tracking of COVID-19 cases on our campuses since the new school year began shows that the mask requirement that went into effect August 20 has been a successful part of our layered mitigation strategies to reduce virus transmission at our schools, keep students learning in person, and reduce the number of students having to quarantine (see the chart on page 2). Extending the mask requirement until after Fall Break affords the opportunity to see what impact that time away from school has on school cases and to make appropriate decisions based on the facts at that time. We also continue working on plans for a “test-and-stay” program after we return from Fall Break.

We had certainly hoped to be in a different position with the pandemic by this point in time, but our community continues to struggle with it. To lift the mask rule now is not prudent, nor does it “follow the science.” Should the judge’s ruling be overturned on appeal, SUSD will follow the law.

It is our strong hope that community transmission of the COVID-19 virus returns to a moderate level soon and that the anticipated approval by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) of the Pfizer vaccine for students ages 5 – 11 puts SUSD in the position of being able to return to a mask-optional policy. Our commitment to enable all of our students to attend school in person has not wavered and will continue to be our driving force.

Families who did not previously apply for a mask accommodation for their students for physical or mental health reasons but wish to now will be able to submit applications through October 8, 2021, the last day of school before Fall Break.

Thank you.

Scottsdale Unified School District

	Staff Positive COVID Cases	On-campus student positive COVID cases reported	Symptomatic students on campus and sent home	Students quarantined due to SUSD close contact	Off-campus positive cases	Students quarantined due to close contact outside of campus	COVID-like Symptoms - Called in Sick	Positive Student Athlete and afternoon school clubs
<b>8/4 - 8/12</b>	19	59	215	486	37	146	481	6
<b>8/13 - 8/19</b>	17	125	238	924	23	221	542	6
<b>8/20 - 8/26</b>	19	148	184	420	14	124	488	5
<b>8/27 - 9/2</b>	4	60	135	18	14	82	415	3
<b>9/3 - 9/9</b> <i>(no school 9/6 and 9/7)</i>	6	28	56	9	4	40	151	1
<b>9/10 - 9/16</b> <i>(1 week following Labor Day)</i>	4	41	89	3	4	39	178	0
<b>9/11 - 9/23</b> <i>(1st full week following Labor Day)</i>	8	33	77	4	7	35	219	1
<b>Totals thru 9/23</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>494</b>	<b>994</b>	<b>1864</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>687</b>	<b>2474</b>	<b>22</b>