



November 20, 2020

Hello, Scottsdale Unified Families.

As our last District office weekly briefing before the Thanksgiving holiday, we want to share how thankful we are for all of you. Your support and perseverance throughout this year has been nothing short of amazing. Together, we have pulled together in an unprecedented way that has demonstrated our community's resilience. We thank you all for the sacrifices and support you've shown so far this year.

### **COVID Update from Dr. Menzel**

As expected, the most recent numbers for SUSD reflect an increase in the number of cases per 100,000. To view this week's metrics, visit [www.susd.org/COVID19](http://www.susd.org/COVID19) and click "Metrics" on the left menu. This benchmark indicator has been in the red for three weeks now and in a few zip codes has jumped significantly. The percent positivity remains in the yellow category at 7.7% (the rate for Maricopa County for this reporting period was 8.9%). The requirement when one or two benchmarks are in the red for two weeks is for schools to consult with the Maricopa County Department of Public Health regarding a potential return to online learning with onsite support. I continue to be in regular communication with county health department officials to understand their understanding of the data in light of case counts in our buildings and any evidence of spread on our campuses. At the present time, they are still not recommending we return to online education but there are concerns with respect to the rising number of cases coupled with the Thanksgiving holiday. In order to address these concerns as a district, **the Governing Board will be holding a special meeting on Monday, November 23rd at 5 p.m.**

### **Athletics Update**

On Thursday, the Arizona Interscholastic Association (AIA) approved the start of the high school winter sports season that includes soccer, basketball and wrestling. Schools have already begun communicating tryout dates, times and locations. As always, individuals who chose to participate must be cleared in "Register My Athlete" prior to tryouts. SUSD is looking into the potential of free COVID-19 testing for those athletes who make a team and that would require their consent. We will continue our COVID-19 safety protocols of symptoms logs, temperature checks and requiring those who do not feel well to stay home. The AIA, with the input of its Sports Medicine Advisory Committee, has determined that no fans will be allowed at games or matches statewide if we are able to resume competition after winter break. Middle school sports continue to be paused at this time. If you have specific questions about athletics, please contact your school coach or athletic director.

### **Next Semester Early Release Schedule & Times**

An early release day is scheduled for preschool through twelfth grade students each Wednesday beginning the week of January 4, 2021, as a critical component of the spring learning model. A weekly early release provides teachers the opportunity to engage in professional development, collaboration and planning to support students' unique needs and to navigate the multiple learning platforms that support students in quarantine who are temporarily learning from home. Please see [www.susd.org/Calendar](http://www.susd.org/Calendar) for the latest edition of the 2020-2021 school year calendar.

### **COVID-19 Testing & Support Available**

Need COVID-19 testing? We have two convenient locations that can serve you.

We have partnered with Embry Women's Health to conduct zero-cost, COVID-19 testing five days a week at [our Oak facility](#) at 7501 E. Oak St., Scottsdale. The drive-thru clinic is open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday. The nasal swab testing is able to detect current COVID-19 infections. Results are reported within 36 – 72 hours. Read more about Embry's free, public health service to our community [here](#).

Maricopa County and Banner Health Urgent Care have teamed up to offer COVID-19 testing at no cost to anyone who may have been exposed to someone who is, or suspected to be, COVID-19 positive. Appointments must be made ahead of time online using this link: <https://urgentcare.bannerhealth.com/>. COVID-19 testing and drive-through flu shots are also being offered at the Arizona State Fairgrounds. Registration is required ahead of time [at this link](#) or by calling 844-549-1851. Insurance information will be requested; however, you will not be asked for any out-of-pocket payment or co-pay.

- Testing is recommended any time after day 7 through day 14 of a quarantine period. You can develop symptoms up to 14 days after close contact with an infectious person. You can get tested anytime during those 14 days, but most people develop symptoms within a week of their having been exposed.
- If you or someone in your family is at higher risk for severe complications due to COVID-19, you may want to know if you are carrying the virus. While waiting for the 14-day quarantine period to expire, it is a good idea to stay away from anyone in the family who may be at higher risk and to wear a mask while in public.

### **Maricopa County’s COVID Parent Hotline**

For more questions or concerns about COVID-19, including testing, contact the Maricopa County Department of Health’s parent information center at [COVIDparenthotlione@maricopa.gov](mailto:COVIDparenthotlione@maricopa.gov) or dial 2-1-1, select option 6 (for COVID-19) and then option 3 (for the COVID Parent Hotline).

### **Second Semester Planning**

Preparations are underway for the second semester. Be sure to read our Questions & Answers document at <https://bit.ly/TLQA1118>. It will be updated each week with the latest information and posted at [www.susd.org/Briefings](http://www.susd.org/Briefings). If you would like to share your thoughts on next school year’s teaching and learning model, visit the District’s “Let’s Talk” application at [www.susd.org/LetsTalk](http://www.susd.org/LetsTalk), by selecting the “Teaching and Learning” department to route your comments to the correct people.

### **2021-2022 School Year Calendar**

The 2021-2022 District calendar for next school year is currently under construction. A calendar planning committee is working on the schedule and will bring forth a recommendation to the new SUSD Governing Board in January. If you would like to share your thoughts on next school year’s calendar, please use District’s “Let’s Talk” application at [www.susd.org/LetsTalk](http://www.susd.org/LetsTalk). Be sure to select the “Teaching and Learning” department to route your comments to the correct people.

### **Questions, Comments or Need Assistance? Let’s Talk!**

We appreciate the opportunity to hear directly from you. We also know you appreciate a direct response from the person at SUSD who is best equipped and empowered to provide you with the right information. That’s why we ask that you submit questions, comments and suggestions through the Let’s Talk app on our website at [www.susd.org/LetsTalk](http://www.susd.org/LetsTalk).

May you, your family and friends enjoy a safe and fulfilling Thanksgiving break. As a District, we will pause to observe the holiday beginning Wednesday, November 25. We will resume our normal schedule Monday, November 30.

With our thanks and appreciation,

Scottsdale Unified School District [Leadership Team](#)

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Remember – there is only one official source of SUSD COVID-19 information on the internet: the SUSD website at [www.susd.org/COVID19](http://www.susd.org/COVID19). Here are a few highlights of what is available in that section of our website:

- **Briefings:** The official copies of the District office weekly briefings to SUSD parents. This page is directly accessible at [www.susd.org/Briefings](http://www.susd.org/Briefings).

- **Campus Closures:** In the event there is a closure of any SUSD campus, it would be listed on this page immediately. This page is directly accessible at [www.susd.org/Closures](http://www.susd.org/Closures).
- **COVID-19 Case Dashboard:** A detailed count of current and past, known, lab-confirmed COVID-19 case counts by building. This data is updated weekly, on Fridays. It is directly accessible at [www.susd.org/Dashboard](http://www.susd.org/Dashboard).
- **COVID-19 Response Plan:** A detailed description of how SUSD will respond when a known case of COVID-19 is identified or when contact with a suspected case happens. This page is directly accessible at [www.susd.org/COVIDPlan](http://www.susd.org/COVIDPlan).
- **Metrics:** Health metrics by zip code, updated each week, on Thursdays. This page is directly accessible at [www.susd.org/Metrics](http://www.susd.org/Metrics).