



Mohave District Annex
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Dear SUSD Families,

Last night, I provided information on the need to close five buildings today, as well as a renewed request to those who traveled over the Thanksgiving Holiday or participated in a large gathering to voluntarily quarantine. I know the late notice was a concern for many and, as a district, we are committed to improving the timeliness of our communication as best we can in this current environment.

This afternoon, I had an opportunity to confer with leaders at Maricopa County Department of Public Health (MCDPH). We reviewed the current situation with respect to rising COVID cases in the county, as well as discussed specific concerns in the Scottsdale Unified School District. MCDPH continues to take the position that the benefits of in-person instruction outweigh the risks, especially for our elementary and middle school students. However, MCDPH reviews several factors, including staffing resources, compliance with mitigation strategies, case counts, etc., when it considers whether a school should return to online instruction.

In reviewing our current situation, MCDPH supports having the following schools return to online learning for the balance of the semester, as a result of staffing shortages and general noncompliance with public health mitigation strategies: **Arcadia High School, Chaparral High School, and Desert Mountain High School**. Accordingly, we will begin transitioning to online learning, effective **Tuesday, December 1, 2020**, for these three high schools. The following Special Education programs located at Arcadia, Chaparral and Desert Mountain will remain open to in-person learning and continue with a full-day schedule: ALC, SCA, LSC, SUCCESS, SHINE, and SCORE. **Cocopah and Mountainside Middle schools will re-open for in-person learning tomorrow.**

This was not an easy decision, but it is one that was made following the guidelines established by the Governing Board regarding determining potential return to online learning on a school-by-school basis in consultation with public health officials. It is our hope that this will also result in freeing up enough substitute teachers to cover other buildings and allow the District to continue offering in-person instruction through the end of the semester.

Sincerely,

Scott A. Menzel, PhD
Superintendent