



December 11, 2020

Hello, Scottsdale Unified Families.

As we head into the holiday season, we would like to wish you, your family and your loved ones a safe, healthy and joyous season. Our thoughts are with those who, for reasons related to the pandemic, are unable to be together or who may be suffering at this time. We continue to work diligently to plan for this ever-changing situation with options that make the most of the resources we have available to maintain our mission of engaging students to maintain robust teaching and dynamic learning. Despite all of the challenges that we know are ahead, we are deeply committed to meeting the needs of our students as we head into the second semester.

COVID Update from Dr. Menzel

The COVID-19 data for this week, available for review at www.susd.org/Metrics, shows that SUSD is now red in both cases/100,000, as well as positivity rate (which is at 11.43% as the weighted average). This is the first week the percent positivity is in red in the aggregate. The COVID-like illness benchmark has risen to 9.10% and may also move into the red category with the next data update on December 17. With respect to active, positive [COVID cases in our schools](#), the total this week is at 43 (down from 79 last week). So what does this all mean? Given the current metrics and my conversations with Dr. Sunenshine, we should be able to finish the semester next week without requiring additional buildings to return to online learning.

However, the data trends are likely to impact the start of the second semester. When all three benchmark metrics are red, ADHS and Maricopa County Department of Public Health recommend schools return to virtual learning with on-site supports for students who need it. While we are not at that point today, it increasingly seems likely that we will reach that threshold next week. Our staff and families want and need to know what to expect when we break for two weeks on December 18. As a district, we've committed to following the data and recommendations from the public health department.

I will be discussing next steps at the Governing Board meeting on Tuesday evening and following the updated data on December 17, we will provide notice of what to expect when the second semester begins on January 4. As soon as we are able to provide definitive information, we will do so.

High School Finals Update

All high school students will take final exams on December 16, 17 and 18. In order to provide an equitable final exam experience for all students, final exams will be administered online, regardless of learning model. All students need to report to their finals online, virtually, from home. However, if your child would like to take finals on campus, each school will provide a safe space for them to work. Each high school will provide specific details to families.

Nutrition Services Update

All children under the age of 18 are eligible to receive FREE meals from SUSD Nutrition Services through the entire 2020-2021 school year, thanks to a U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) program. This means that all children in the community can receive free meals and no qualification is necessary. There are two ways to receive free meals: SUSD students on campus can receive their free breakfast and lunch in their school's café on school days and any family in the community, including EDL and SOL families, can come through our weekly curbside meal distribution drive-thru. Just drive up and pick up a week's meal bundle per student. The children do not need to be in the vehicle to receive the free meal bundles.

Our FREE meals curbside takes place Wednesdays from 7 - 9:30 a.m. at SUSD's Oak Campus, 7501. E. Oak St., Scottsdale. The service offers "7-Day Meal Bundles," including 7 days' worth of breakfasts, lunches, snacks and dinners. *NOTE: To avoid entering the COVID-19 testing line, also currently located at the Oak*

campus, please enter the meal pick-up line entrance located on at the front of the campus on Oak Street, just west of Miller Road.

Due to Winter Break, that there will be **no curbside service Dec. 23 and Dec. 30**, but we will back to serve you with a smile on Wednesday, January 6!

Spring Learning Model Overview

Please see this [link](#) for an overview of the Learning Models, as presented by the Teaching and Learning Department.

- Requesting a Change of Learning Models - During the commitment process for Spring Learning Models, families were asked to select a model for their student for the spring semester. Staffing and scheduling were based on these selections. In order to request a model change, beginning Monday, December 14, families will need to fill out this form and return it to their school registrar. Model changes will be based on space availability. Download a Model Change form: [English](#); [Spanish](#).

SUSD School Year Calendar Update

Stakeholders have been collaborating to develop school calendar options for the next four school years (2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24 and 2024-25), in order to bring recommendations to the SUSD Governing Board. We are seeking input on what priorities are most important to our community to assist with this process. Please utilize Thoughtexchange to share your response to this question: “Taking into consideration historically observed breaks (Fall, Spring, Winter and observed holidays), as well as traditional first and last days of school, what is the most important consideration when developing a school calendar?” Participate in the [Thoughtexchange](#).

COVID-19 Testing

If you are looking for COVID-19 testing, many convenient locations continue to be available.

SUSD has 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. It conducts several different kinds of COVID testing. Results are reported within 36 – 72 hours. Embry also has many other testing locations around the Valley. Find them at <https://embrywomenshealth.com/testing-blitz/>.

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.

Other community COVID-19 options include:

- [ASU Saliva Testing](#)
- [City of Phoenix Mobile Testing Sites](#)
- [CVS Pharmacy Retail Testing Sites](#)
- [Walgreens Pharmacy Drive-Thru Sites](#)

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 or dial 2-1-1, select option 6 (for COVID-19) and then option 3 (for the COVID Parent Hotline).

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.

Thank you.

Scottsdale Unified School District [Leadership Team](#)

Remember – there is only one official source of SUSD COVID-19 information on the internet: the SUSD website at 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.
- **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.
- **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.
- **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.
- **Metrics:** Health metrics by zip code, updated each week, on Thursdays. This page is directly accessible at www.susd.org/Metrics.