



**SCOTTSDALE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
8500 E. JACKRABBIT ROAD, SCOTTSDALE, ARIZONA 85250  
TELEPHONE: (480) 484-6100 | FAX: (480) 484-6295

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CHEYENNE  
COCHISE  
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COPPER RIDGE  
CORONADO  
DESERT CANYON ES  
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PUEBLO  
REDFIELD  
SAGUARO  
SCOTTSDALE ONLINE  
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March 13, 2020

Scottsdale Unified Families,

On behalf of the more than 3,000 Scottsdale Unified School District employees, we want to say thank you for trusting us to provide a safe and healthy school environment. We know that you have concerns about the current coronavirus situation and want to share this latest update with you. Rest assured that we are taking this situation very seriously. Navigating through this public health pandemic is the top priority for District leadership.

After consulting today with Governor Doug Ducey, Arizona Department of Health Services Director Dr. Cara Christ, the Maricopa County Department of Public Health (MCDPH) and State Superintendent of Public Instruction Kathy Hoffman, the current state and county public health recommendation is to keep schools open. We respect parents' right to withhold their children from school.

- **There are no identified cases of the COVID-19 illness affecting the SUSD community at this time.**
- **All Scottsdale Unified Schools will be open after Spring Break on Monday, March 16.**

As you know, this situation is rapidly evolving. That is why the District created a special web page dedicated to sharing the very latest updates with you. Please take a moment to bookmark [www.susd.org/COVID19](http://www.susd.org/COVID19) and check this resource frequently to ensure you have the latest information.

SUSD leaders have been actively responding to the coronavirus situation since January. On February 28, the District's Incident Command Team was formally activated. This group of leaders specially trained in emergency response has been meeting regularly and throughout Spring Break to take decisive action in coordination with our public health partners. The most notable actions include:

- Cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched surfaces in all schools over Spring Break, including keyboards, doorknobs, light switches and desks.

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- Mandating daily cleaning of all SUSD buses to include wiping down frequently touched surfaces.
- Postponing school-related overseas field trips to areas designated as having a Level 3 Health Alert, as defined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
- All out-of-state travel by students and staff has been postponed for at least the next several weeks. This will be revisited on a weekly basis.
- Local and in-state field trips are being reviewed on a case-by-case basis.
- For the past several weeks, all school nurses have been increasing the frequency of sanitization of their treatment areas and are in regular communication with each other and key contacts in the local medical community.
- Ordering additional cleaning supplies for our classrooms such as gloves, hand sanitizer, cleaning products.
- Informing our staff how to recognize and report symptoms of this illness in staff and students to school nurses on all campuses.
- Schools will restrict non-essential guests, volunteers and speakers for at least the next several weeks. This will also be revisited on a weekly basis.
- In our cafeterias, we have halted the use of our share tables where students can donate unwanted food items for other students to take. We are also wrapping all self-serve items such as whole fruits. This is in addition to our cleaning protocols to keep food preparation and consumption areas sanitary in compliance with county health regulations.
- With regard to athletics, further guidance may come early next week from the Arizona Interscholastic Association (AIA) after its executive board meeting on Monday, March 16.

*Many of you have been asking if and when we would close schools. The decision to close schools would come at the direction of our local health authority – the Maricopa County Department of Public Health. If there is a confirmed case of COVID-19 in one of our schools, MCDPH will work with school and District leadership to develop and execute a plan of action specific to that school community.*

Health officials continue to remind us that the risk to children is low, while older adults and people with serious and chronic medical conditions are most at risk. For more information and to see the guidance MCDPH is giving to school districts, visit [www.maricopa.gov/coronavirus](http://www.maricopa.gov/coronavirus).

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We all have a role to play in preserving public health. Taking these small, but important steps will help us mitigate the spread of this disease:

**If you or your child feels ill, stay home.**

- Any SUSD student or employee found to have a fever of 100 degrees or more will not be permitted on campus and will be sent home. No SUSD student or employee will be allowed back on campus or at work until they have been fever-free for at least 24 hours without the aid of fever-reducing or other symptom-altering medicines, such as acetaminophen, ibuprofen and cough suppressants. A doctor's note may be required.

**Practice respiratory etiquette and hand hygiene.**

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- When a sink is not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.
- Always cover every cough and sneeze with a tissue or use your elbow.
- Dispose of used tissue immediately in a trash bin.

**SUSD is relaxing the student absenteeism section of the Student Code of Conduct so that if your child is ill or if you feel uncomfortable sending your child to school, he or she may stay home without negative consequences.**

While we do not anticipate a closure, we are preparing in the event this should be mandated. Now is also a good time for families to discuss and make plans for childcare in the event of illness and a school closure. Our Information Technology department is working to equip and train teachers with technology and software to deliver lessons remotely. Discussions have been taking place on a potential school meal distribution site.

**Should a school closure occur, the District would notify parents in the following ways:**

1. Robo phone call to the home phone number on file with your child's school
2. Robo email to the personal email address on file with your child's school
3. Robo text to the mobile phone number on file with your child's school



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4. An announcement on the school's website. A listing of all school websites is found at [www.susdl.org/Schools](http://www.susdl.org/Schools).
5. An announcement on the SUSD COVID-19 web page found at [www.susd.org/COVID19](http://www.susd.org/COVID19)
6. An announcement on the District website at [www.susd.org](http://www.susd.org)
7. A post on the school's official Facebook and twitter accounts. A listing is found at [www.susd.org/Connect](http://www.susd.org/Connect).
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For additional CDC recommendations on how to do your part and for the latest factual information, visit:

- [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)
- [www.maricopa.gov/coronavirus](http://www.maricopa.gov/coronavirus)
- [www.susd.org/COVID19](http://www.susd.org/COVID19)

The SUSD Incident Command Team continues to meet regularly to address the COVID-19 situation and to review the latest updates from our local, state and national public health partners. We have identified this helpful resource from the National Association of School Psychologists about ways of talking to your child about coronavirus. This resource is also available at [www.susd.org/COVID19](http://www.susd.org/COVID19).

We will keep you advised of any new, pertinent information as it becomes available. We look forward to welcoming all students and staff back on Monday, March 16.

Thank you.

**Scottsdale Unified School District Incident Command Team**

Dr. John Kriekard, Superintendent

Dr. Milissa Sackos, Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Education

Michelle Marshall, General Counsel

Amy Bolton, Chief Communications & Marketing Officer

Shannon Cronn, Clinical Services Coordinator

Shannon Crosier, Director of Finance

James Dorer, Chief Security Officer

Dennis Roehler, Director of Facilities