



August 20, 2021

Dear Scottsdale Unified Families,

There's no way around it: this has been a challenging week for our school district. Even before the week's reports were issued of confirmed COVID-19 cases [among SUSD students and teachers](#) and the virus's continued wide spread in [our 15 zip codes](#), it was abundantly clear that the district had to take action to try to get a grip on the virus's spread on our school campuses.

To protect the safety of our students and staff, and in an effort to preserve our ability to continue to offer in-person instruction, the SUSD Governing Board this week approved reinstating the requirement that masks be worn indoors at schools and district offices until September 29<sup>th</sup>.

This mitigation strategy was of such significance to our success last school year that returning to it, if only for a matter of six weeks, is absolutely necessary. We hope this action provides some leverage against the highly transmissible Delta variant of the coronavirus that this week alone has seen another 142 students, teachers and staff test positive, more than double last week's count, for a total of 220 since the new school year began August 4<sup>th</sup>. Between testing positive for COVID, being a close contact of a COVID-positive person or experiencing COVID-like symptoms, more than 2,800 students have missed school so far this year. If we were using the same building level metrics from last school year to trigger a return to virtual learning, two of our schools would already be closed, and two more would not be far behind.

If there is a glimmer of optimism as the week ends it is that this first day today of mandatory masking-up on our school campuses went well. Disposable masks were available to those who arrived without them and compliance was high.

### ***Supporting Students in Quarantine***

Our team has been working on innovative ways to support students who are temporarily quarantined at home because of COVID or a COVID-like illness. During their absence from in-person learning, students are being provided access to instructional materials and support to continue their learning.

The quarantine time frame is limited, so we are prioritizing support in a way that allows students to remain aligned with their classroom instruction and supports their reintegration into the classroom when they return. The baseline of support will come from the classroom teacher, who will supply instructional materials through a learning management system, i.e. Google Classroom and/or Microsoft TEAMS. This support includes strategies such as the use of classroom technology, interactive lessons, streaming key components of direct instruction and/or recorded instructional videos of classroom instruction.

Next week, we will launch [additional support](#) for students at home due to quarantine or illness due to COVID by providing tutoring sessions from our SUSD teachers or through Varsity Tutors. If your child is at home due to quarantine or COVID-like illness, you will receive a letter from the teacher(s), detailing this additional support.

<b>Additional Support for Students</b>	
<b>K-5</b>	<b>Middle School and High School</b>
<b>Additional Support A</b>	
<b>Tutoring Hours</b> Up to 3 sessions per week	<b>Tutoring Hours</b> 3 sessions per week per core subject area for up to a total of 12 sessions
<b>Live, virtual, small group learning/tutoring with a SUSD classroom teacher or other certified teacher for support with grade level content.</b>  Includes English Language Development, Special Education and Gifted programs that cover core content areas.	<b>Live, virtual, small group learning/tutoring with an SUSD classroom teacher or their certified teacher for:</b> Core subject areas: English Language Arts, Math, Social Studies, Science  Includes English Language Development, Special Education
<b>Additional Support B</b>	
6 hours of individual tutoring through Varsity Tutors	6 hours of individual tutoring through Varsity Tutors
<b>Varsity Tutor learning support when SUSD tutoring is not available.</b>	<b>Varsity Tutor learning support when SUSD tutoring is not available.</b>

***Athletics***

The Governing Board’s decision this week to reinstate a mask requirement indoors on SUSD properties allows for an exception for students engaged in athletic activities. Masks can come off when practice begins and need to be put back on when practice is over. Spectators at home games will be required to wear a mask indoors. Visiting teams’ athletes will also be required to wear masks indoors, except when they are playing. We appreciate your understanding and support in our efforts to continue to offer athletic opportunities in SUSD.

***Nutrition Services***

Due to unforeseen logistical challenges being encountered by some of our food suppliers, we want to let you know that school meal menus may have to be adjusted. Regardless, every healthy and nutritious meal your child receives from SUSD Nutrition Services always meets all national and state guidelines for nutrition and product safety. We look forward to serving your students free breakfast and lunch all school year. While no applications are required this year, we encourage you apply for free-and-reduced meal status that may make your family eligible for other benefits. Go to <https://family.titank12.com/?identifier=TUJAZ9> to submit your application.

### ***Campus Celebrations***

We want to close out the week by reporting some exciting news. Ground was broken yesterday for the Kiva Elementary School rebuild project that you authorized with passage of the 2016 bond proposal. Kiva, located at 6911 E. McDonald Drive in Paradise Valley, opened in 1957. There have been additions and renovations to the school during the intervening years, but its time has passed. The rebuild is on an accelerated schedule, with Cougar students and staff, led by Principal Matt Gromek, scheduled to move into their new facilities in just a year's time. The Kiva community's invaluable input along the way helped the architects create the design of a dynamic new campus that will serve students for many years in the future.

Hohokam and Yavapai Elementary School students opened the new school year on the refurbished and revitalized Hohokam campus at 8451 E. Oak Street in Scottsdale, but today a fun celebration and ribbon cutting took place to formally celebrate its completion. Honoring and preserving Phoenix architect Ralph Haver's original design was identified early on as a priority, and the final product is an amazing tribute to that past, while also creating 21<sup>st</sup> century teaching and learning spaces for students. Congratulations, Principal Chuck Rantala, for overseeing this successful project to its beautiful conclusion and to both schools' teachers and staff for being the consistency in your students' school experience, regardless of location! And many, many thanks to our amazing Director of Building Services, Dennis Roehler, and Bond Projects Construction Manager Dan Collinsworth for their steadfast commitment to the success of Hohokam's modernization.

Scottsdale Unified School District [Cabinet](#) and [Leadership Team](#)

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### **Community COVID-19 Testing and Vaccination Resources**

SUSD continues to partner with Embry Women's Health, which operates a [COVID testing site](#) at our Oak Learning Academy campus, 7501 E. Oak St., Scottsdale. The site is open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Friday. Embry also has two other drive-thru COVID-19 testing facilities in our community:

- Chaparral Business Center, 8840 E. Chaparral Rd., Scottsdale – open from 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., 7 days a week
- Phoenix Camelback Seventh-day Adventist Church, 5902 E. Camelback Rd., Phoenix – open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday thru Friday

COVID-19 vaccinations are widely available throughout our community at both stand-alone pharmacies, such as Walgreen's and CVS, and at pharmacies located inside major grocery stores. They also do COVID testing on-site.

**Albertsons:** <https://www.albertsons.com/pharmacy/covid-19.html>

**Costco:** <https://www.costco.com/covid-vaccine.html>

**CVS:** <https://www.cvs.com/immunizations/covid-19-vaccine?icid=cvs-home-hero1-link1-coronavirus-vaccine>

**Fry's:** <https://www.frysfood.com/rx/covid-eligibility>

**Ranch Pharmacy:** 10769 N. Frank Lloyd Wright Blvd., Scottsdale

**Safeway:** <https://www.safeway.com/pharmacy/covid-19.html>

**Walgreens:** <https://www.walgreens.com/topic/promotion/covid-vaccine.jsp>

*Other community vaccination resources:*

**NOAH - Neighborhood Outreach Access to Health:** <https://noahhelps.org/covid-vaccine/>

**Maricopa County Department of Public Health COVID-19 Vaccine**

**Locations:** <https://www.maricopa.gov/5659/COVID-19-Vaccine-Locations>

**Arizona Department of Health Services COVID-19 Vaccine**

**Locations:** <https://www.azdhs.gov/covid19/vaccines/index.php#find-vaccines>