



## Keeping Our Children in School Mask Recommendation

August 11, 2021

Dear Laveen Families:

I speak for the entire Laveen District staff when I say how happy we are to have nearly 7,200 students back to full in-person learning. It is wonderful to see your children ready to learn, engaged in their lessons, and excited to be interacting with their peers.

Our theme this year is “Ignite Excellence.” I have challenged all Laveen staff members to find ways in which they activate each student’s potential, igniting the excellence that we know exists in every child.

The first step in meeting this challenge is to ensure students stay healthy so they can be in their classroom. This is where we need your help.

Since school began on August 2, there have been 19 positive cases of COVID-19 reported across the district. These cases have resulted in over 50 other students being quarantined at home for multiple days because they were considered a Close Contact of a positive case.

**Based on the above, we ask all our families to support the following mitigation efforts in keeping students in our schools.**

### WEAR A FACE COVERING

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Maricopa County Department of Public Health (MCDPH) have a Close Contact [exception](#) for students in K-12 classrooms: if the infected person and the Close Contact are both wearing face masks, the Close Contact does not need to quarantine. **Simply put, the more students who wear masks results in fewer students being sent home for quarantine.**

While state law prohibits school districts from requiring face masks and gives parents the option of sending their children to school wearing a face mask, **we strongly recommend that masks be worn while indoors on our school campuses.** This recommendation is supported by the CDC, Arizona Department of Health Services, MCDPH, and the American Academy of Pediatrics.

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### GET VACCINATED

The majority of our students are under the age of 12 and cannot be vaccinated. They are relying on the teens and adults around them to get vaccinated and stop the spread. We have posted information on [local vaccine clinics](#) on our website. The Phoenix Union High School District will be offering free vaccine clinics once a week at both Cesar Chavez and Betty Fairfax High Schools.

### MONITOR SYMPTOMS

The Delta variant is highly contagious. If you, your child, or a family member is experiencing COVID-like symptoms (fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, sore throat, headache, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, muscle/body aches, and/or a new loss of taste or smell), please do not attend school and seek healthcare or a COVID-19 PCR or antigen test, depending on the severity of symptoms. Visit our website for a [list of local testing clinics](#). Any person (student or staff member) who tests positive for COVID-19 must be excluded from the facility until they have completed the isolation period outlined in the [MCDPH Home Isolation Guidance](#).

### STAY CURRENT ON DISTRICT INFORMATION

Our [2021 Back to School webpage](#) serves as this year's hub of information related to the safe return to in-person instruction. Here, you will find our updates, COVID-19 safety measures, the district's 2021-22 COVID Case Dashboard, public health benchmarks, information on local vaccine and testing clinics, and links to our health partners.

After five quarters of students switching between in-person and distance learning, we are in the best position for students to be at school each day. By supporting the efforts above, I know that we can keep our students in school where we can Ignite Excellence.

Sincerely,



Dr. Jeff Sprout, Superintendent

