



ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER
9801 West Van Buren Street
Tolleson, Arizona 85353
(623) 478-4000
(623) 936-5048 Fax
Website: www.tuhsd.org

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SUPERINTENDENT
Nora Gutierrez

October 13, 2021

Dear Tolleson Union High School District Parents/Guardians,

The Tolleson Union High School District remains committed to ensuring the safety of our students, staff and families while making every effort to provide the best learning experience possible. I would like to share some important information with you regarding your child's health and safety. We continue to monitor COVID-19 data and the alarming increases occurring within our district and community. As of September 30th, we have had 403 positive cases among students and 36 positive cases among staff this school year.

On Monday, September 27, 2021, the Maricopa County Superior Court issued a ruling finding various provisions of the budget reconciliations bills were unconstitutional. The state law prohibiting districts from requiring masks has been deemed unconstitutional and is currently unenforceable due to the court's ruling. School districts have the authority to require students and staff to wear a mask in school and while on school property.

With cold and flu season coming, we anticipate people will be coughing and sneezing throughout the day. It is also expected that many of you traveled over Fall Break and will be traveling during the upcoming holiday season. With that in mind, we will follow CDC and County Health Department recommendations and continue to use layered mitigation strategies such as vaccinations, proper wearing of face masks, social distancing when feasible, and enhanced cleaning to help reduce transmission of COVID-19 and other airborne viruses. These mitigation measures will help us maintain in-person learning and avoid disruptions to student learning.

I would like to share some important information on student quarantining when they have experienced close contact with COVID-19. According to the Maricopa County Public Health Department:

If your child has been in close contact to a person with COVID-19 and:

- a) have a negative COVID-19 test,
- b) are fully vaccinated (two weeks since 2nd dose) or have tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 90 days,
- c) and are symptom free,

Your child does not need to QUARANTINE if:

- a) you monitor your child for symptoms,
 - b) and your child properly wears a well-fitted mask that covers their nose and mouth,
- for 14 days after their last exposure to someone testing positive for COVID-19.

Therefore, as of Monday, October 18, 2021, all persons, including but not limited to, staff, students, vendors, visitors, and volunteers, shall wear a cloth face covering while indoors on any District property, in any District facility, at any District event, and in any District vehicle, including District buses or vehicles rented or leased by the District. Cloth face coverings are to fully cover a person's nose and mouth, ideally fitting snugly but comfortably against the sides of the face and under the chin. They are to remain affixed in place without the use of one's hands and are to not have holes.

We thank you for your support in following these health and safety guidelines **AS WE STRIVE TO PROVIDE THE BEST EDUCATION POSSIBLE AND KEEP OUR SCHOOLS OPEN**. Together we are TUHSD Strong!

Sincerely,

Nora Gutierrez
Superintendent