

August 19, 2021

Dear Sunnyside Families & Employees —

This week, a Maricopa County Superior Court judge ruled that the law banning mask mandates in schools (HB 2898) does not go into effect until the end of September. This ruling allows Arizona school districts to legally mandate the use of masks for all students and staff.

As a result, the Sunnyside Unified School District Governing Board voted today to mandate the use of masks for all teachers, staff, students, and visitors while indoors on school facilities, district offices and school buses regardless of vaccination status. Masks will continue to be optional when outdoors. This decision is effective August 20, 2021 through September 28, 2021, and aligns with the most current county, state and federal health and safety recommendations. SUSD remains committed to maintaining the highest standards of safety for our in-person learning environment, and this decision allows our district to prioritize health and safety for everyone.

Accommodations will be provided for individuals who request an exemption and provide supporting documentation signed by a certified health care professional. You may read more about individual accommodations by clicking [here](#).

Since school began two weeks ago, reports of COVID-19 cases are occurring across our campuses and I am grateful that our community has been incredibly collaborative when it comes to following universal mitigation strategies, including the use of masks. To read SUSD's Mitigation Plan, including detailed information about the use of masks, click [here](#).

Additionally, we will continue to collaborate with the Pima County Health Department to provide COVID-19 vaccination opportunities for our community. You can find up-to-date vaccination information on our website at sUSD12.org.

If you have further questions regarding this communication, please contact your child's school principal. We sincerely appreciate your ongoing collaboration to keep our community safe.

Sincerely,



Steve Holmes, Superintendent