



SAHUARITA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

December 3, 2020

Dear Sahuarita Family:

Since the beginning of the pandemic, we've been guided by multiple indicators, including dashboard numbers, counsel from referent public health authorities, and a review of our own internal operations and situation.

We are continuing to operate safely and effectively in many regards. However, this week, there have been emerging patterns of concern, most specifically at the high school level. There have been twelve (12) new cases at high school campuses over the last two weeks. The number of high school students under isolation and quarantine due to possible exposure has also grown by 56%. This has correlated with an impact on school attendance. For example, our high schools have reached an average absence rate of approximately 30% this week, significantly greater than any other schools. Furthermore, similar issues among employee team members have put additional stress on maintaining ideal staffing levels.

Therefore, we have decided to move both Sahuarita HS and Walden Grove HS back to full remote learning for the balance of this first semester. This will commence on December 4, 2020, and end on December 17, 2020, when we move to the Winter Break. Students will transition back to full remote learning and operate just as they did prior to the October shift to hybrid in-person learning. The final exam week, December 14-17, 2020, was already scheduled to operate in the remote structure for the high schools, and that will continue. The respective high school leadership teams will communicate more specific details as needed. It is anticipated that our high schools will return back to in-person hybrid learning on resumption of the spring semester on January 4, 2021, pending any further determinations.

At this time, the operations at all schools serving students in grades K-8 will continue in the hybrid mode. The current counsel of the Pima County Health Department, combined with the noted variables in these grade levels, remain overall favorable for continued hybrid instruction. For example, there have been six (6) on campus cases at schools serving grades K-8 since the beginning of in-person hybrid learning. Furthermore, the average absence percent has been just over 10% this week among the K-8 serving schools. Of course, if any significant changes necessitate a shift in plans, we will provide that communication.

Finally, we will provide at least one more written update prior to the holiday break, and strive to keep the community apprised of any developments as needed. I express my sincere gratitude to all of you for your shared efforts, cooperation, trust, and sacrifice as we move through this process. I remain hopeful that our fidelity to established procedures and routines, combined with the promise of a vaccination in the relatively near future, will continue to support our goal of in-person instruction, and the safety of all.

Sincerely,

Manuel O. Valenzuela, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Office of the Superintendent

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Working as a team to help every student succeed.