



FOUNTAIN HILLS
UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Dear FHUSD Families,

We hope this letter finds your family healthy and well this summer. The Fountain Hills Unified School District (FHUSD) has been focused on the re-opening of schools for several months by engaging with staff, community, and parents in a task force to provide feedback on options for reopening. While the situation remains fluid and we need to prepare for all scenarios, our current plans for reopening in the most responsible and safe manner for both our students and staff are ready to be shared. The following principles guided the development of our plan:

- We will strive to create a return to school environment that will be as normal as possible while implementing safety precautions.
- We are here to support you; however, parents are ultimately responsible for their child's health and well-being.
- Timely, clear, and effective communication is key. FHUSD's Latest News and Facebook page are our official outlets for COVID news and plans.
- FHUSD will plan for what we know today, and we will be flexible as new conditions emerge.
- Cleaning and sanitizing procedures at all sites have been enhanced. FHUSD will continue to invest in new equipment and effective practices to keep our environment safe and healthy.

As we maneuver the changing landscape of our society, FHUSD is committed to the education of our community's children. In making decisions about the reopening of schools, not only are we considering your child's health and wellness, but the health and wellness of our fabulous staff. The guidance provided in this document is a culmination of dedicated community members utilizing Arizona Department of Health (ADHS), Centers for Disease Control (CDC), and Executive Orders from Governor Doug Ducey. Guidance and requirements change frequently. Please know we are continuing to be as flexible and understanding to changes while adjusting to the plans set forth.

Parents, you can assist us in battling the spread of COVID-19 in FHUSD schools in the following ways:

- Please keep your children home should they present with any COVID-like symptoms. Awards for perfect attendance will not be given this school year. We will work with whatever accommodations that are needed due to absences.
- Please check your child for the following symptoms daily:
 - Fever of 100.4 or higher or chills;
 - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing;
 - Muscle aches;
 - Sore throat;
 - Headache;
 - Fatigue;
 - Congestion or runny nose;

- Cough;
 - Vomiting;
 - Diarrhea;
 - New loss of taste or smell
- If you have questions about your child’s symptoms, please contact your primary care provider.
 - Help children learn the value of washing their hands with soap and water and using hand sanitizer especially after covering their cough and sneezes.
 - Currently, it is a mandate by the Maricopa County Supervisors that citizens wear masks in public access areas. When we return to school, all students and staff will wear masks when social distancing is not possible. It is imperative to help your student(s) become accustomed to wearing masks.

Instructional Opportunities

FHUSD values the choices families make for their children. Regardless of the model of instruction you choose, we commit to providing your child with a high quality education by a certified educator. Your children will continue to be FALCONS regardless of the option you select. Funding for public schools will remain consistent from last year’s funding per pupil. If your child or family have unique needs, please make the best choice for your family.

During the spring school closure, school districts were instructed to provide instructional resources for families and children and to not provide new instruction due to technology needs. For the fall school year, we will be providing schedules for instruction, taking attendance, and engaging you and your children in learning. We will publish family and staff expectations in virtual learning in the next several weeks. Teachers will be engaging in professional development in virtual instruction.

On **August 11th**, instruction for our students will begin through an all virtual environment. Should your family choose to enroll your students in the FHUSD Virtual Academy, instruction will begin on August 11th as well. It is our plan to begin traditional classroom instruction on August 17th. It is imperative that we all understand that as the plans for state change, our school opening plans will change.

Preschool Instruction – Preschool instruction will begin August 17th. For students with special needs, the case manager will be contact you to begin services.

Special Education Students: Parents should start by choosing one of these options through their survey. Students with special needs will receive instruction aligned with IEP goals through their assigned case manager. The case manager will assist in determining the best accommodations and modifications for course work based on your student’s IEP.

Homebound Instruction: Homebound instruction for students with a chronic illness will be determined based on the individual needs of the students and family.

After reviewing the instructional options below, please complete a [survey](#) to make the choices for your children and family. Please make sure that you complete one response for EACH child in your family. Please complete your choices by July 24th.

What are my student’s choices for learning?

Traditional in Classroom with Remote Learning Option: Instruction: Synchronous Learning		Virtual Academy Instruction: Asynchronous Learning	
A. Traditional in classroom instruction	B. Remote learning based on classroom feed	C. Edgenuity, Virtual Academy A for grades 9-12	D. Schools PLP, Virtual Academy B for grades K-12
<p>Live, on campus instruction in the classroom. A remote feed of live instruction is available to students who have occasional absences.</p> <p>If a student is sick or not feeling well, Option B and Option A are interchangeable.</p>	<p>At home learning. All live, on campus instruction is available via remote feed of live instruction for students who are unable to attend in person.</p> <p>If a student wants to attend in person, Option A and Option B are interchangeable.</p>	<p>100% online prepackaged learning product that requires students to work with some autonomy. *Teacher led instruction *Accredited Course work with Arizona Standards *FHHS students may combine traditional instruction classes with Edgenuity Virtual Academy courses.</p> <p>More information at their website: Edgenuity</p>	<p>100% online prepackaged learning product that provides some support to the student. *Teacher led instruction OR *Self-paced learning *Accredited Course work with Arizona Standards</p> <p>More information at their website: Schools PLP</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • K-12 • 5 Full days per week • Preventive safety measures • Student cohorts and teams • Social-emotional support • Accommodations and support services provided • Recess breaks • Extracurricular activities, clubs, events and athletics 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • K-12 • 5 Full days per week • Enrolled in FHUSD Virtual Academy • Internet connection required • District device provided • FHUSD Teacher-led instruction or self-paced learning based on the AOI selection • Class meetings, small groups, and support • Social-emotional support • Accommodations and support services provided • Specials and electives • Virtual Academy students will continue to be FHUSD FALCONS! They may participate in athletics, activities, clubs and graduation ceremonies. 	

Programmatic Changes: Students enrolled in the Virtual Academy may transfer back to traditional classroom instruction at the **quarter** for elementary and middle school students and at the **semester** (due to credit requirements) for high school students.

Protocols for Students on Campus

Athletics, Events, and Field Trips:

- Field trips, school-wide assemblies, or large events will be canceled and reevaluated.
- Every effort will be made to hold activities such as back to school night, meet the teacher, school assemblies, and clubs in a virtual format.
- Following the AIA guidance, FHUSD will follow the phased approach to implement proper procedures for student athletes. Athletic information can be obtained from the [AIA website](#). FHUSD is adhering to the guidelines suggested by AIA and will continue to monitor student participation.
- Band – no students should share instruments especially woodwind instruments. Social distancing should be practiced while playing instruments.

Enhanced Cleaning:

- School campuses will be disinfected twice a day following CDC, state and local guidelines using FDA agents approved for use in public areas.
- The mid-day protocol will be centered around the lunch transition period allowing access to vacant classrooms. This schedule will be established based on final bell schedules.
- At the end of each school day each building will be cleaned and disinfected prior to the start of the next school day.
- District vehicles will be cleaned and disinfected following CDC, state and local guidelines at the conclusion of the morning route schedule and again at the end of the day.
- Additional disinfecting and sanitizing of high touch areas will be completed on each campus mid-day to include bathrooms.
- All classrooms will have an EPA N-List registered disinfectant available for staff to disinfect high touch points as needed throughout the day.
- Air quality and circulation will be maintained through HVAC coils and air filter changes as scheduled.
- All soft porous surface furniture, to include couches/overstuffed chairs/non-District purchased rugs will be removed from all areas.
- In the case of a positive COVID-19 case, custodial staff will follow all cleaning protocols.
- All high touch surfaces and classrooms will be sanitized daily.

Face Coverings:

- Maricopa County Supervisors require all residents wear masks or facial coverings. FHUSD will continue to take guidance from Arizona state health officials and will comply with all mandates that impact preK-12 public schools.
- Acceptable face coverings include masks – cloth or paper, gaiters

- Any student who has difficulty breathing or who is incapable of physically removing the face covering on his/her own will not wear cloth face coverings, and alternative methods of protection will be discussed by parents and staff.
- Cloth masks should not be worn when students are engaging in physical activity, in which case physical distancing will be maintained.
- While the schools will have a supply of disposable masks available, students are encouraged to bring their own to and from school. It is permissible to wear shields but they will not be provided by FHUSD.
- Care of cloth face coverings: masks and face coverings must be cleaned and sanitized daily and should not be worn on subsequent days without cleaning and sanitizing.
- Should students wear cloth face coverings, they should bring an extra to school in case the other becomes soiled.
- A sub-committee is working on the establishment of guidelines for students and staff in the wearing of face coverings to include opportunities for breaks and additional guidelines.
- Students who refuse to comply with the safety protocols adopted for in-person learning will be assigned to an online learning environment pursuant to A.R.S. 15-841(F).

Hand Hygiene:

- All students and staff will wash their hands or use hand sanitizer upon arrival at each school.
- Hand sanitizing stations will be available at every school site especially in high traffic areas.
- Classrooms will have access to handwashing and students will be instructed to use soap and water, and scrub for 20 seconds, followed by rinsing.
- Classrooms without handwashing will have access to a minimum 60% alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Frequent handwashing will take place throughout the day.

Health Checks/Screening:

- Students should stay home if they feel ill or are exhibiting symptoms of respiratory infection.
- Staff members wearing appropriate PPE will visually check each student and take temperatures with a non-contact thermometer prior to students entering the school.
 - If students do not exhibit any symptoms, they will go directly to class.
 - Students with a temperature of 100.4 or higher or exhibiting symptoms will be taken to the health office or isolation room.
- Parents will be contacted should symptoms be present and be required to immediately pick up their child. Please be prepared to answer phone calls from the school in the event your child is exhibiting symptoms. Please be cooperative with the health office personnel.
- Parents and guardians should assess their child's health daily before sending them to school. The health assessment form is included.
- Students will be reminded of proper hygiene including avoiding touching their eyes, nose, and mouth; covering mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing, and safely discarding tissues.

Lunchrooms/Classroom Food and Holiday/Birthday Treats:

Lunch will be served in all school cafeterias with breakfast at the elementary and middle schools. We are considering offering breakfast to the high school students – this decision will come soon. Parents, please – please – please, put money into your child’s account. This prevents the food service workers from touching bills and coins that could be contaminated.

- Lunchrooms/Multipurpose rooms will be open during lunch with increased safety measures.
 - Students will be assigned seats at least 3 feet apart.
 - One class at a time will line up for lunch with appropriate physical distancing.
 - Food sharing will not be permitted.
 - Students with food allergies will sit at a designated table.
- Classroom Food and Holiday/Birthday Treats:
 - Until further notice, students will not be permitted to share treats or food in their classroom. This will be re-evaluated regularly as the state of Arizona nears Phase 3.

Playgrounds and Common Areas:

- Where feasible, physical distancing will be maintained in open and common areas such as hallways, stairwells, gyms and playgrounds. When not possible to physically distance, students and staff will wear face coverings.
- Recess will be separated by classes and grade level cohorts. When feasible, the equipment will be sanitized between use. Students will wash hands before and after using playground equipment. Staff are encouraged to be creative in employing techniques to maintain social distancing during unstructured times.

Response to Reported Cases:

- FHUSD will follow CDC protocols regarding reported cases and take specific guidance from the Maricopa County Department of Public Health.
- School nurses will follow established screening protocols and will consult with public health officials to determine how to best handle students and staff who display or develop COVID-19 symptoms.
- Isolation rooms will be established in each school for students or staff who may be sick. Parents will be required to immediately pick up their child should they present with COVID like symptoms.

School Campuses and Classrooms:

- Where feasible, seating will be arranged to maintain as much physical distance as possible. Desks will face the same direction or students will sit on only one side of the table, spaced apart.
- Students are encouraged to bring their own water bottle to be filled at school.
- Students will utilize their own school supplies and keep their belongings separate or in their backpack throughout the day.
- Where possible, adjustments to drop-off and pick-up routines will be made to facilitate physical distancing. The schools will implement staggered drop-off and pick-up times so that not all students arrive on campus at the same time. The schedule for drop-off and pick-up will be communicated by each building administrator prior to the start of school.

- Signage will be posted in all rooms, common rooms, and entry ways reminding everyone of hygiene practices to prevent the spread of COVID.
- Physical education will take place outside when weather permits. Classes may focus on health related subjects as well as personal fitness strategies instead of high contact exercises.

Social-Emotional Well-Being:

- All schools will have a student support team that will assist in addressing the social and emotional needs of students. Students may struggle with processing our new procedures in teaching and learning and staff will be ready to address these concerns as necessary.

Transportation:

- All students will wear face coverings while on the bus.
- All buses will have clearly visible signage communicating to parents that students should not enter the school bus with any of the symptoms indicated above.
- A bus driver/aide, wearing appropriate personal protective equipment will visually check each student prior to the student boarding the bus.
- If a student has visible signs of illness, the following steps will be taken:
 - If the parent is at the bus stop, the student will return to their parent.
 - If the parent is not at the bus stop, the student will be provided with a mask if they do not have one already, and – if possible – will be situated so as to be physically distanced from other persons.
- To the greatest extent possible given bus capacity, students will be encouraged to sit with their siblings and/or one student per row. Students should sit closest to the window. The bus will maintain maximum bus ventilation at all times with windows open (weather permitting) and ventilation set to non-recirculating mode.
- Buses will be loaded back to front and unloaded front to back.
- Families are encouraged to transport their children to and from school to reduce the number of students on a bus.

Visitors on Campus:

- For the safety of our students and staff, no outside visitors will be permitted past the front office. In-person meetings will take place in a designated location, near the main office. This location will be thoroughly cleaned and sanitized after each appointment.
- Please make an appointment should you need to speak with an office staff, principal, teacher, or other staff member.
- Front office staff will disinfect shared surfaces routinely throughout the day.
- Hand sanitizer will be available after sharing pens and completing paperwork.
- Parents/guardians of incoming preschool and kindergarten students may walk their children to class the first week of in-person classes. Masks must be worn and physical distancing maintained. The school principal will provide additional information on this process.
- Parents will not be permitted to walk students on or off campus before and after school, and will not be permitted on campus during lunch hours.

- All volunteer programs, site visits, or other programs are suspended until further notice and will be reevaluated after the start of the school year.

Procedures for COVID-19 Symptoms or Positive Test:

If a person becomes sick with COVID-19 symptoms or reports a positive test, the procedures listed below should be followed:

1. Immediately report the situation to the building principal or school nurse. Confidentiality will be maintained to the greatest extent possible.
2. If a student develops COVID-19 symptoms at school, the student will be separated from all other students and staff, with the exception of one staff member to supervise the student. This employee will have PPE and will maintain 6 feet physical distance unless there is an emergency. Parents or guardians will be called immediately for student pick up or 911 if the student appears to be in medical distress.
3. If an employee develops COVID-19 symptoms at work, the employee will be separated from all other students, staff, or visitors, and arrangements made to send the employee home in a safe manner. 911 will be called if the employee seems to be in medical distress.
4. Areas that were exposed to the symptomatic employee or student will be closed for a prolonged time. FHUSD will wait 24 hours before cleaning and disinfecting those areas. During that time, if feasible, we will increase the air flow to the area.
5. Determine whether other employees or students may have been exposed to the symptomatic individual within 6 feet and for a prolonged period of time (longer than 15 minutes). If so, notify those individuals (or, in the case of students, their parents) of the potential exposure. FHUSD will NOT disclose the name of the person who has become sick. Notification will recommend that exposed individuals monitor their health closely, contact their health care provider if possible, and self-quarantine if any symptoms develop.
6. Employees or students who have developed COVID-19 symptoms or had a positive COVID-19 test may not return to the site until either of the following two scenarios has occurred:
 - a. Scenario One –
 - i. At least 3 days (72 hours) have passed since recovery, which is defined as
 1. Resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications
 2. Improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g. cough, shortness of breath) and
 3. At least 10 days has passed since the first symptoms emerged.
 - b. Scenario Two –
 - i. There has been a resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medication; and
 - ii. There has been improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); and
 - iii. The individual has received negative results of an FDA emergency-use-authorized COVID-19 from at least two consecutive respiratory specimens collected less than 24 hours apart (total of two negative specimens).

Resources to help children:

Handwashing Videos:

Grades K-2

[Cartoon Network](#)--Handwashing song. 1 minute

[Daniel Tiger](#)- Germs Germs Go Away. (make believe)

[Odd Squad](#)- How to Stay Away From Germs - 1 minute

[Odd Squad](#)- coughing and sneezing safely -1 minute

Odd Squad- [Social Distancing](#)- 1 minute

[Odd Squad](#)- How to Stay Away From Germs - 1 minute

[Odd Squad](#)- coughing and sneezing safely -1 minute

Odd Squad- [Social Distancing](#)- 1 minute

Peekaboo Kids [Safety Measures for Coronavirus](#) (produced in India; solid information)- 6 minutes

Grades 3-6

[Odd Squad](#)- How to Stay Away From Germs - 1 minute

[Odd Squad](#)- coughing and sneezing safely -1 minute

Odd Squad- [Social Distancing](#)- 1 minute

Sid the Science Kid [Journey of a Germ Song](#)- 2 minutes

Sid the Science Kid- [The Big Sneeze](#)- 28 minutes

Wild Kratts [Wear a Mask](#) - 37 seconds

Peekaboo Kids [Safety Measures for Coronavirus](#) (produced in India; solid information)- 6 minutes

[NASA Astronauts Revise Landing Procedures](#) Due to Corona Virus -2 minutes

Wearing Masks:

[Kids Health](#)

[Healthy Children](#)

[KinderCare](#)