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SUPERINTENDENT
Nora Gutierrez

July 22, 2021

Re: COVID-19 Mitigation Update

Dear Tolleson Union High School District Staff, Students, Families, and Community Members,

We are eagerly awaiting our students to return to in-person learning on August 3, 2021 for freshmen and August 4, 2021 for all students. Safely opening our schools and keeping staff and students healthy is a top priority. For those reasons, Tolleson Union High School District will continue to follow public health guidelines.

Public health departments including the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS), and Maricopa County Department of Public Health (MCDPH) are the experts at working with schools and learning environments. Consistent with this guidance, the **Tolleson Union High School District (TUHSD) requests and highly recommends that all individuals on TUHSD facilities continue to wear masks and adhere closely to COVID-19 mitigation strategies for the safety and well-being of our students and staff.**

As a reminder, public health experts recommend schools implement the following COVID-19 five (5) layered mitigation strategies:

1. Consistent and correct mask use
2. Physical distancing
3. Handwashing and proper respiratory etiquette
4. Cleaning and disinfecting of facilities regularly
5. Monitoring cases with contact tracing and staying home if you are sick and/or exposed to COVID-19.

Please note that we will make every effort to maximize student learning. As such, we will work closely with families when their child is sick or exposed to COVID-19 to determine if their child needs to remain learning in-person or move temporarily to remote learning.

In addition to these mitigation strategies, public health professionals strongly recommend the public take the following actions to end the COVID-19 pandemic:

- A. Get vaccinated - for people 12 years and older.
- B. Stay home - if you are sick
- C. Get tested - if you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms

Testing and vaccinations are widely available. Contact your doctor or local pharmacy for more information.

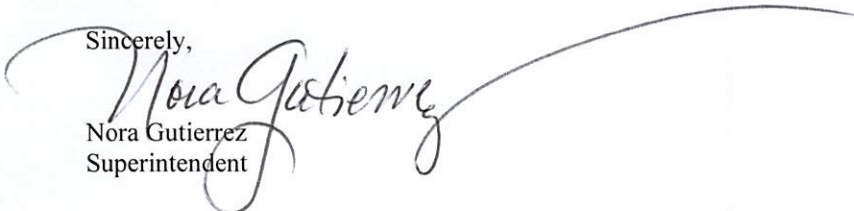
The Tolleson Union High School District has also upgraded the ventilation systems to improve the indoor air quality and minimize virus particles in classrooms and facilities. If you'd like more information on COVID-19 prevention in schools, please visit the CDC website at:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-guidance.html>.

Thank you for partnering with us in keeping our students, staff, families, and community healthy and safe. We wish you all a great start to the 2021-2022 school year.

I thank each and every one of you for your support during this difficult time. Together, we will continue to keep EVERYONE as safe and healthy as possible. We will continue to serve our fabulous staff, students and community with PRIDE.

Sincerely,


Nora Gutierrez
Superintendent