



AJO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 15

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October 15th, 2021

Dear Staff & Families,

On October 13th our governing board members voted to require masks throughout the district. **Effective Monday October 25th, the Ajo Unified School District will require all students, staff, and visitors to wear masks when indoors unless there is written medical documentation as to why one would not be able to do so.** This requirement will remain in place until further notice.

Concerns surrounding the COVID-19 Delta variant, as well as its accelerated spread on campus, prompted board members to vote on this topic with safety at the forefront of their minds. The vaccination rates in our community are still low, and our transmission rate is at a high level, and has stayed that way for several months. Through our Parent Survey, it was evident that concerned parents were asking for a mask mandate from district leadership. We pride ourselves in listening to our families.

A court ruling determined the Arizona ban on school face-covering mandates is not currently in effect, and school districts are able to exercise local control over safety mitigation strategies which is what our governing board did.

- *Face coverings are not required while outdoors.*
- *Face coverings do remain mandatory on school buses and District transportation, per federal order.*
- *Cleaning protocols will remain in place and the district will supply students with masks/face coverings if they do not bring them to school.*

We are pleased that a majority of our district staff is vaccinated. Most families and staff do a great job of wearing face coverings and follow our mitigation plan. I believe the safety layers this requirement puts in place will make us even safer in the long run. As always, for the latest updates, please visit www.ajoschools.org.

Sincerely,

Dr. Lance Chebultz,
Principal