Health and Safety

a. Promoting behaviors that reduce the spread of COVID-19

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| Hand Hygiene and Respiratory Etiquette| • Frequent hand-washing and use of sanitizer will be strongly promoted.  
• Hand sanitizer and sanitizing wipes will be situated in all areas.  
• Guidance and signage will direct individuals to adhere to proper hygiene measures.                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Cloth Face Coverings                  | • Disposable and cloth face coverings or face shields will be required of all persons, including, but not limited to, staff, students, vendors, visitors, and volunteers, who shall wear a cloth face covering or face shield while on any District property, in any District facility, at any District event, whether indoors or outdoors, and in any District vehicle, including District busses or vehicles rented or leased by the District.  
• Face shields may be an acceptable alternative to face coverings.  
• This requirement for face coverings will be in effect at least until ADHS determine face coverings are no longer necessary.                                                                                                                                                     |
| Adequate Supplies                     | • Large supplies of hand soap and sanitizer, sanitizing wipes, and disposable and washable face coverings have been procured and their use will be promoted.                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Signs and Messages                    | • Signs will be posted in highly visible locations to promote everyday protective measures and how to stop the spread of germs.  
• Messages about behaviors that prevent the spread of COVID-19 will be communicated to staff and families via school website, emails, and robocalls.                                                                                                                                                       |
Screening for Symptoms

- Parents, guardians, and students must be alert to COVID-19 symptoms and monitor for such.
- STAY HOME WHEN SICK!
- COVID-19 symptoms may present differently in children than in adults. For example, children are less likely than adults to have fever with COVID-19 and more likely to present with non-respiratory symptoms such as nausea and diarrhea. It is important to recognize many common illnesses have similar symptoms.
- In an abundance of caution, any person experiencing symptoms should remain home.
- Students should have their temperatures taken every morning and stay at home if at any time a temperature over 100.4 degrees is measured.
- Parents and guardians must ensure that their students are free from COVID-19 symptoms before allowing them to enter school buses or any school facility.
- Parents and guardians have an obligation to notify school officials if their child learns of any close contact with any individual who has been diagnosed with COVID-19.

b. Maintaining Healthy Environments

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| Cleaning and Disinfection | • Intensified/increased frequency of cleaning/surface sanitizing has been instututed both in school facilities and vehicles.  
                          | • Classroom surface sanitizing both midday and at the end of the school/  
                          | work day.                                                                |
| Shared Objects      | • Educate staff and students regarding the sharing of objects.             |
                          | • Inform departments and ask for PO requests for additional essential  
                          | supplies in order to avoid sharing.                                       |
| Ventilation         | • Regular inspection all HVAC return air systems is in place.             |
| Water Systems                                    | Water systems will be regularly flushed and water fountain usage will be limited. Signs will indicate bottle-filling only at each fountain. |
| Physical Barriers and Guides                  | Floor markings or stanchions used in reception areas; high school and district offices, front office aide station, cafeteria staging. Traffic will be limited and directed   |

### c. Maintaining Healthy Operations

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<td>Regulatory Awareness</td>
<td>Continued monitoring of state and local guidelines, recommendations and mandates.</td>
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| Gatherings, Visitors, and Field Trips | Any school-sponsored gatherings will be limited to fewer than 50 individuals. Social media info on reducing visitors to campus and limiting frequency and duration of visits will be posted.  
  • NO field trips or out of town travel will be allowed until such time as local health authorities advise to the contrary.  
  • Parents and guardians will not be allowed to enter school facilities beyond designated drop-off and pick-up areas without prior arrangements. |
| Designated Point of Contact    | Direct inquiries to Mike Westcott health and legal concerns, to Genie Gee for instructional school issues. |
| Participation in Community Response Efforts | Verde Valley school superintendents are coordinating similar responses to COVID-19 and school reopening strategies. |
| Communication Systems          | Staff and families should self-report if they or their students have symptoms of COVID-19, a positive test for COVID-19, or were exposed to someone with COVID-19 within the last 14 days.          |
| Sharing Facilities            | Moratorium on facility use for non-school entities will continue.                                      |
### d. Preparing for When Someone Gets Sick

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<td>Advise Staff and Families regarding suspected infection with COVID-19 and follow-up protocols.</td>
<td>Much of this Plan includes guidance from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) documents; &quot;Safely Returning to In-Person Instruction&quot;, pages 10-11 and &quot;Release from Isolation and Quarantine Guidance&quot;. These documents are linked here and also attached at the end of this mitigation plan.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Advise Staff and Families regarding suspected infection with COVID-19 and follow-up protocols, continued.</td>
<td>The home is the frontline for monitoring the health of our staff and students. Stay home if ill or exhibiting any COVID-19 symptoms*. Parents and guardians must take responsibility for ensuring the health of their students BEFORE they leave for school.</td>
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<td><strong>Suspected COVID-19 Infection – Employee</strong></td>
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<td>1. Immediately isolate the individual, if the individual remains in the workplace. Follow protocol for contact with someone who is ill, including removing them from the school environment safely and interacting with them with appropriate physical protective equipment (PPE).</td>
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</table>
2. Report this instance of suspected COVID-19 exposure or infection to the immediate supervisor and human resources if an employee and the school principal if a student. The school will immediately contact a parent or guardian if the suspected exposure or infection is with a student. Confidentiality is an absolute requirement.

3. Begin to determine which other employees or students have had “close contact” with the individual so as to make informed decisions regarding next steps. The Center for Disease Control defines “close contact” as someone who was within six (6) feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes starting from two (2) days before illness onset (or, for asymptomatic patients, two (2) days prior to specimen collection) until the time the patient is isolated. Only those who have had “close contact” should be notified of possible exposure and the notification will recommend that exposed individuals monitor their health and contact their health provider, and if symptoms develop, self-quarantine. https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/contact-tracing/contacttracing-plan/appendix.html#contact.

4. Investigate the matter by telephonically interviewing the individual if they have left the site.

5. The district is obligated to record cases of COVID-19 as an occupational illness pursuant to 29 CFR Part 1904. OSHA has released revised guidance on May 19, 2020 regarding the limited investigation that employers must conduct in order to make a reasonable determination of whether the illness is work related. The district is not required to undertake extensive medical inquiry but must ask the employee how he or she believes they contracted COVID-19, discuss outside activities, and review work environment. The guidance provides examples of when it may be reasonable to determine that the illness was contracted at work: https://www.osha.gov/memos/2020-05-19/revised-enforcement-guidance-recording-cases-coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19
6. Employees or students who have developed COVID-19 symptoms or have had a positive COVID-19 test result may not return to the site until they have met the CDC or State/County Health department's guidelines at that moment in time. Because guidelines in this area change regularly, describing the steps that will be taken would not be prudent.

*COVID-19 Symptoms include:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

**Suspected COVID-19 Infection – Student or Parent**

1. Follow protocol re: isolation and transport of student, if at school: If a student develops COVID-19 symptoms at school, separate the student from all other students and staff, with the exception of one staff member to supervise the student. This staff member will wear PPE or a cloth face covering and will maintain a distance of at least 6 feet from the students at all times, unless there is an emergency. Staff will immediately notify a parent or emergency contact to pick up the student and will call 911 if the student appears to be in medical distress.

2. Attempt to communicate with the parent. The district may call the parent to discuss possible exposure. If they are not reachable or decline to discuss the matter, cease all investigations and operate under the presumption that there is a possible COVID-19 exposure.
3. Assess possible exposure.
   - Assess who may have had contact with the individual or their family in the two days prior to symptom onset; and
   - Assess which district sites may need to be sanitized or temporarily closed.
   See Industrial Hygiene section for more information.
4. Determine who should receive notice of potential COVID-19 exposure. See next section on Reporting and Notification for more information.

| Staff or student becomes ill during school day | Adhere to isolation/transport protocol, if necessary, use isolation space adjacent to nurse's office. Arrange for staff or student member to go home ASAP. |
| Clean and Disinfect | Notify custodial staff regarding areas which may need to be closed for 24 hours. Plan to move classes if impacted. |
| Notify Health Officials and Close Contacts | We have and are cooperating with county health services on strategies for sharing information. |

### E. Reporting and Notification

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<td>The Americans with Disabilities Act (&quot;ADA&quot;), Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (&quot;FERPA&quot;), and the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (&quot;HIPAA&quot;) should be considered in any district disclosure of possible COVID-19 infection.</td>
<td>A student's possible exposure to COVID-19 should be treated as a student record subject to FERPA. Specifically, the Arizona Attorney General suggests &quot;given the current health emergency, [educational institutions] should apply the FERPA/HIPAA exceptions and disclose sufficient information related to positive COVID-19 cases so those potentially affected students, staff, visitors, etc. can self-monitor and potentially self-quarantine. The district may also provide notice to appropriate parties if a parent or other member of the student's household has a suspected COVID-19 exposure so they may self-monitor and self-quarantine.</td>
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| In each instance, a district should maintain all information as a confidential medical record and should only disclose relevant non-identifying information to those individuals that the district is permitted to provide notice.  
The Arizona Attorney General’s office has issued recent guidance on this issue: https://www.azag.gov/sites/default/files/2020-03/20-005.pdf. | Notifications must not disclose any personally identifiable information about the individual unless a FERPA exception applies.  
The District will strictly adhere to the previously linked (and attached) guidance from ADHS regarding exposure and release from isolation and quarantine.  

Notification Basics for those with "close contact". Close contact is defined as being within 6 feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period starting from 2 days before illness onset (or, for asymptomatic patients, 2 days prior to test specimen collection) until the time the patient is isolated. Differential determination of close contact for those using fabric face coverings is not recommended.  

• The notice must not contain personally identifying information;  
• The notice should only include non-identifying information that is relevant to allow those with potential exposure to self-monitor and self-quarantine;  
• Only provide the notice to "appropriate parties;”  
• The district may inform appropriate health officials as long as it complies with applicable privacy laws;  
• The notification should encourage those individuals that may have been exposed to COVID-19 to self-monitor for symptoms and to self-quarantine if appropriate. |
ARIZONA DEPARTMENT
OF HEALTH SERVICES

'Release from Isolation and Quarantine' Guidance

Recommendations for quarantine and discontinuation of isolation precautions and home isolation, based upon a person's symptoms and clinical testing are below. In addition, the release from isolation flowchart can be found here. CDC and ADHS do not recommend a test-based strategy to discontinue isolation. For people that previously tested positive for COVID-19 who remain asymptomatic after recovery, retesting is not recommended within 3 months after the date of symptom onset for the initial COVID-19 infection. The most recent updates to this document can be found here.

- If a person is symptomatic and awaiting** COVID-19 test results:
  - Stay home away from others or under isolation precautions until results are available. If results are delayed, follow guidance for symptomatic and tested positive for COVID-19. Once results are available, follow the recommendations below based on results.

- If a person is symptomatic and tested positive for COVID-19 by PCR or antigen testing, stay home away from others or under isolation precautions until:
  - At least 10 days* have passed since symptoms first appeared; AND
  - At least 24 hours have passed since last fever without the use of medicine that reduces fevers; AND
  - Other symptoms have improved.

- If a person is symptomatic and tested negative** for COVID-19 by PCR or antigen testing, stay home away from others or under isolation precautions until:
  - At least 24 hours have passed since last fever without the use of medicine that reduces fevers; AND
  - Other symptoms have improved.

- If a person is symptomatic and has not been tested** for COVID-19 by PCR or antigen testing, stay home away from others or under isolation precautions until:
  - At least 10 days* have passed since symptoms first appeared; AND
  - At least 24 hours have passed since last fever without the use of medicine that reduces fevers; AND
  - Other symptoms have improved.

- If a person is asymptomatic and awaiting** COVID-19 test results:
  - No isolation is required while waiting for test results. Take everyday precautions to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Once results are available, follow recommendations based on results.

- If a person is asymptomatic and tested positive for COVID-19 by PCR or antigen testing, stay home away from others or under isolation precautions until:

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- At least 10 days* have passed since specimen collection of the first positive COVID-19 PCR/antigen testing while asymptomatic. If symptoms develop, follow guidance for symptomatic and tested positive for COVID-19.

- If a person is asymptomatic and tested positive** for COVID-19 by serology:
  - No isolation is required since there is a low likelihood of active infection. Take everyday precautions to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

- If a person is asymptomatic and tested negative** for COVID-19 by PCR, antigen testing, or serology:
  - No isolation is required. Take everyday precautions to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

- If a person has other non-compatible symptoms and has not been tested for COVID-19, stay home away from others or under isolation precautions until:
  - At least 24 hours have passed since last fever without the use of medicine that reduces fevers; AND
  - Other symptoms have improved.

*A person who had severe/critical illness or is severely immunocompromised should:

- If symptomatic, stay home away from others or under isolation precautions until:
  - At least 20 days have passed since symptoms first appeared; AND
  - At least 24 hours have passed since last fever without the use of medicine that reduces fevers; AND
  - Other symptoms have improved.

- If asymptomatic, stay home away from others or under isolation precautions until:
  - At least 20 days have passed since specimen collection of the first positive COVID-19 PCR/antigen testing while asymptomatic. If symptoms develop, follow guidance for symptomatic and tested positive for COVID-19.

Outside of these criteria above, extension of isolation is not routinely recommended if an individual is retested within 3 months of onset of symptoms or date of first positive test while asymptomatic.

**A person who had known close contact with a confirmed COVID-19 case should quarantine for 14 days from their last exposure to the case regardless of negative tests results or illness where no testing was performed. However, if they test positive for COVID-19 by PCR or antigen testing, they should follow the relevant isolation guidance. Healthcare workers and critical infrastructure workers should follow guidance that includes special consideration for these groups. If you are a healthcare worker or critical infrastructure worker, please follow-up with your employer or HR for specific guidelines. In addition for people previously diagnosed with symptomatic COVID-19 who remain asymptomatic after recovery, quarantine is not recommended in the event of close contact with an infected person.

Updated: 7/27/2020
Recent Updates to Guidance

The following changes were made to the guidance:

- Added guidance on not using a test-based strategy, extended isolation (i.e. 20 days) for individuals with severe/critical illness or that are severely immunocompromised, quarantine guidance, and glossary of terms.
- Changed recommendations for serial testing of asymptomatic individuals and reduced time from fever to 24 hours from 72 hours.
- Removed serology from recommendations for diagnostic tests (i.e., PCR or antigen testing).

Updated: 7/27/2020
Glossary of Terms

1. **Close contact** for COVID-19 is defined as any individual who was within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes starting from 2 days before illness onset (or, for asymptomatic patients, 2 days prior to positive specimen collection) until the time the patient is isolated.

2. **Isolation** separates sick people with a contagious disease from people who are not sick.

3. **Quarantine** separates and restricts the movement of people who were exposed to a contagious disease to see if they become sick. For COVID-19, this means staying home or in a private room with a private bathroom for 14 days after last contact with a person who has COVID-19.

4. **Severe/critical illness**: Illness due to COVID-19 that required any intensive care during hospitalization.

5. **Severely immunocompromised** means you have:
   - Been taking chemotherapy for cancer recently;
   - HIV and a CD4 T-cell count <200;
   - An immunodeficiency disorder;
   - Been taking high-dose steroids (like prednisone 20mg/day for >14days); OR
   - Another condition that a healthcare provider has told you makes you severely immunocompromised.

6. **Symptomatic**: People with these symptoms may have COVID-19:
   - Fever or chills
   - Cough
   - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
   - Fatigue
   - Muscle or body aches
   - Headache
   - New loss of taste or smell
   - Sore throat
   - Congestion or runny nose
   - Nausea or vomiting
   - Diarrhea

This list does not include all possible symptoms. Public Health will continue to update this list as we learn more about COVID-19.