

Dear MUSD Parents,

Since the return to in-person learning on February 1, Maricopa Unified School District has experienced three school closures. The closures were the impact of 1-2 cases at each school that resulted in extensive staff quarantines.

**Because social distancing is not always possible in classrooms or on buses, one positive case can result in an entire class or all bus riders being quarantined.**

Remember:

- Middle schools and the high school are most impacted because students and teachers are in multiple classes each day.
- Numerous staff quarantines combined with a typical day's absences can render a school inoperable because there are not enough staff to provide adequate supervision. **To be clear, this is not indicative of teachers refusing to teach.** They are complying with administrative directives to quarantine and to stay home when they are sick.

We need your help.

- Reinforce proper mask wearing.
- Social distance when possible.
- Keep your children home when they are sick, even if symptoms are mild.

I understand the burden that interruptions to in-person learning cause our students, staff, and families. However, our mitigation strategies have kept outbreaks from occurring in our schools. **We anticipate guidance from AZDHS regarding operating protocols and vaccinated personnel.** Your commitment to practicing preventative measures helps keep schools open.

Thank you for choosing MUSD.

Dr. Tracey Lopeman, Superintendent

Maricopa Unified School District