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