

TUCSON UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Office of the Superintendent

Greetings Tucson Unified community,

I hope this Friday finds you well as we approach the end of what has been an amazing and safe start to this school year and another beautiful southern Arizona weekend. In the spirit of ensuring that Tucson Unified continues to exhibit some of the lowest COVID 19 transmission rates in the state for a district its size for both students and staff, and to honor our commitment of ensuring equal access to the least restrictive environment possible for our students with disabilities and students with active 504 plans, the TUSD Governing Board voted unanimously to retain and continue its current Mask requirement on all TUSD properties at the September 23rd Governing Board meeting. Thus, all adults and children are required to wear a face-covering/ mask when they come onto a TUSD School campus or facility. Additionally, please note:

- At this time all district level and site level staff and departmental meetings should occur virtually, or online. This includes large-scale staff gatherings like potlucks, employee breakfasts, etc.
- All visitors to school sites, district buildings, and facilities are expected to wear a mask. This includes vendors, visitors from the community, and parents. Parents are welcome to walk their students to class but must wear a mask to do so.
- Campus and district volunteers are cleared to work on our campuses at this time with the expectation that they comply with all required COVID 19 mitigation protocols, primarily mask-wearing. These expectations apply to volunteers carrying out duties and assignments on campus, indoors, during instructional time as well as volunteers serving in support of athletic or performance arts programs.
- School-community events such as Open House, Meet the Teacher Night, and Parent-Teacher Conferences are still authorized with the expectation that all guests from the community and parents wear a mask while on our campuses.

In the coming days, our administration will be requesting the assistance of the United States Department of Justice and the United States Department of Education with its effort to protect and educate all students, including those who are considered medically fragile or have disabilities that place them at a significantly higher risk of serious COVID-related illness. Our

district proudly serves just shy of 7,000 Exceptional Education students, many of whom meet the definition of medically fragile or have 504 plans necessary to address significant health issues. Our mandatory mask policy shall continue indefinitely until our Governing Board determines it is no longer necessary, a determination they have committed to making according to the recommendations and guidance of the Pima County Health Department, the Arizona Department of Health Services, and the Center for Disease Control. Throughout this pandemic, your patience, flexibility, support, and resilience have been our most valuable weapons in this continuing fight against COVID 19. Together, we can strive for a COVID 19 free TUSD for everyone, especially for those most at risk.

Stay safe and stay healthy.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gabriel Trujillo', written in a cursive style.

Gabriel Trujillo, Ed.D.

Superintendent

Tucson Unified School District
