

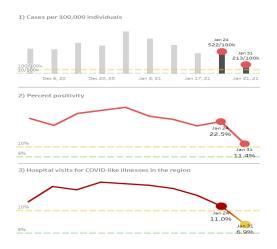
## <u>Lake Havasu Unified School District No. 1</u>

DISTRICT OFFICE 2200 Havasupai Boulevard, Lake Havasu City, AZ 86403-3798 928.505.6900 Fax 928.505.6999 www.lhusd.org

February 24, 2021

Dear LHUSD Families,

We communicated back in December that we would look to fully reopen our middle and high school as soon as possible. We will be fully reopening beginning March 22<sup>nd</sup> for the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter. We have been evaluating the new CDC guidance and our most recent health benchmarks from the AZ Department of Health. As of February 18<sup>th</sup>, Mohave County has begun to significantly decline in all three <u>benchmark areas</u>: number of cases **213/100K**, percent positivity **11.4%**, and hospital visits **6.9%** 



The same is true for the <u>benchmarks in our city</u>: number of cases <mark>69</mark>, percent positivity <mark>8%,</mark> and hospital visits approximately <mark>6%</mark>. We expect that this declining trend will continue in a positive direction. The number of cases in our schools remain low and they do not contribute to meaningful community spread.

The new <u>CDC guidance</u> relies heavily on working with your local health department when making decisions for schools. We have talked with our health department and they are fully prepared to support us as we move forward with continued contact tracing and the implementation of additional mitigation strategies should they become necessary.

The following mitigation strategies are in place and will continue to support a fully open status through the end of the school year:

- Required face coverings
- Available hand sanitizing stations throughout each campus
- Extra sanitizing completed daily
- Posted signage reminding to students and staff to socially distance to the extent possible (LHHS has designated one-way hallways to support social distancing)
- Circulation of outside air through our ventilation (HVAC) systems every 15 minutes



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- Cohorting students to the extent possible throughout the school day (This is not possible at LHHS due to individual student schedules)
- Contact tracing completed for all positive COVID cases reported to schools

As we move to a fully open status we will need to collaborate to ensure our schools remain healthy learning environments. Please keep students home who are experiencing any symptoms of COVID or if anyone in the household is awaiting a COVID test result; this is the most important step in supporting our fully open status. Students are not penalized for absences due to illness.

We will continue to quarantine students who meet the close contact standards. There are new guidelines that waive quarantining for students who have tested positive for COVID within the last three months. Currently the number of required quarantine days is 10; however quarantined students who test negative for COVID on or after day 5 of their quarantine can return to school on day 8. Please make sure your school nurse has the necessary information to waive or release your students from quarantining should that be necessary.

Please have a backup plan in place for your student's transportation. Our buses will be operating; however quarantining rules may require that we close down a bus route as you may have experienced during our hybrid status.

We understand there may still be some concern within the community about schools being fully open. Our online platform, Schools PLP, continues to be available to support those students who may be uncomfortable on campus at this time. In order to ensure that students are set up in the program, new student enrollment in Schools PLP should be completed by March 5<sup>th</sup>. You can access the registration link <u>here</u>.

We wish you all a restful spring break and look forward to welcoming everyone back on March 22<sup>nd</sup>. Your support and commitment to keeping our schools safe and healthy for all our students and staff is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

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Rebecca Stone, Ed.D. Superintendent