



January 1, 2022

Dear Kyrene Families and Staff,

We hope you have had a restful and healthy winter break. Kyrene School District has continued to monitor COVID-19 trends throughout winter break and, based on developments in the past week, we have important updates to share with you.

This week, the CDC and the Maricopa County Department of Public Health [released new guidance](#) about quarantine and isolation periods. The new guidance allows students to return to school sooner following isolation and, in some cases, to avoid quarantine, but it requires face coverings. It is the first change to quarantine and isolation guidance since the school year started. This significant new development, combined with [elevated community spread](#) within our Kyrene boundaries, will have the following impact on District safety measures:

**Face coverings will be required indoors at all school campuses and district facilities upon return to school on Monday, January 3.**

Face covering exemption criteria is outlined on our website. If you believe your child qualifies for an exemption, please contact your school principal.

Kyrene's goal is still to make face coverings optional. However, it is also the District's primary goal to keep schools open for in-person learning and to have students present on campus as much as possible. Maintaining face coverings at this time will give the Kyrene Emergency Management Team time to see what impact the new guidelines may have on the spread of illness within our schools. Limiting spread is not only in the interest of health and safety but is also critical to ensuring adequate staffing to keep our schools open.

This update and all other information regarding Kyrene's COVID-19 safety measures can be found online at [www.kyrene.org/safestrong](http://www.kyrene.org/safestrong).

We may yet have challenges ahead, and as always, our plans are flexible to respond to the ever-changing landscape of this global pandemic. We ask that you

continue to practice patience and kindness as we all work toward the common goal of creating a safe learning environment for students and staff.

Sincerely,

Laura Toenjjes, Superintendent

Kyrene Emergency Management Team

**Our Vision:** All students achieve at their maximum potential to become problem-solvers, creators, and visionaries of tomorrow.

**Our Mission:** Kyrene School District will commit to student success for all, by providing engaging, challenging educational environments which promote and inspire passion for learning, leading, and achieving transformative life outcomes.

LEARNING. LEADING. ACHIEVING.

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