

# Prescott Unified School District

## Information Sheet About COVID-19

### Spring Break Travel

If you and your family traveled over Spring Break, we encourage you to become familiar with the Centers for Disease Control (CDC)'s Information for Travel. Should you have traveled to an area with widespread transmission of COVID-19, public health officials will guide you in quarantine requirements. **Please remember that schools are not qualified or allowed to screen students or staff to identify cases of COVID-19.**

### About the virus that causes COVID-19

According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), the COVID-19 virus causes a respiratory illness ranging from a mild cold-like illness to severe pneumonia. Signs and symptoms include a fever, cough, and shortness of breath. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure. Although there is a slight risk of catching the disease from another person before symptoms appear, people are most contagious when they are the most symptomatic or sickest. It is spread between people who are in close contact with one another and through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes. Older adults and people who have severe underlying chronic medical conditions like heart or lung disease or diabetes are at a much higher risk for developing serious complications. According to the CDC, there is no evidence that children are more susceptible. In fact, most confirmed cases of COVID-19 reported from China have occurred in adults. You can find additional information regarding COVID-19 symptoms at the CDC website.

### Preventative Measures

The public is encouraged to follow basic hygiene practices. PUSD classrooms were disinfected over Spring Break using an electrostatic process that kills all bacteria and viruses. The following are additional preventative measures that we have put into place to assist with the minimization of the risk of contracting many illnesses that spread from person-to-person:

- Disinfecting of learning, eating, play spaces, buses, and restrooms.
  - Aligned with CDC guidelines, we have implemented additional cleaning measures focused on disinfecting main touchpoints such as detailing doorknobs, light switches, handles, tables, school buses, etc.
- Providing soap, paper towels, tissues, and additional resources in all school health offices.
- Reminding students to wash hands frequently, avoid touching eyes, nose or mouth, and to cover coughs and sneezes.

o Classroom teachers, counselors and staff will be educating students on the importance of handwashing to prevent the spread of viruses. Students will be allowed extra time for washing their hands throughout the day. Teachers are encouraged to use strategies to minimize student touch/interactions.

- Employees are following proper preventative measures and are required to stay home when sick.

### **Reminder to parents and guardians of the critical importance of keeping their student home when sick**

Students with a fever of 101.0 or greater will be sent home until they are fever-free for a 72 hour period. We encourage our parents/guardians to practice healthy habits including the development of contingency plans should their student become sick and need to stay home or in the event of a future school closure. Please keep in mind that older adults are considered to be in a high-risk category and may not be the preferred choice for childcare support in this context.

### **How Does the Health Department Decide When to Close Schools?**

CDC is recommending using the model in the link below when deciding to close schools and to flatten the curve. Note- Yavapai County does not have a curve yet as no cases have been reported (as of 3/14/20, 9 am).

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/considerations-for-school-closure.pdf>

### **Changes to District and School-Sponsored Events**

Based on CDC recommendations, PUSD is currently reviewing all events as a precautionary measure to avoid unnecessary close interactions, reduce the potential for community spread, and protect vulnerable at-risk populations. We will be updating our PUSD families with any changes in these types of events including field trips, athletics, activities, assemblies, travel, try-outs, practices. We will also review all extracurricular activities including musical, dance, drama performances; school-wide assemblies, award events, large group student and public activities; fundraising events; parent group sponsored events and activities; and any other school events and activities where large groups are gathered, both on the school campus or outside of the school.

### **Absences, State Testing, Preparations for School Closure, Should it Become Necessary**

Aligned with the Arizona Department of Education, our schools will work with students who experience prolonged absences. This may include providing additional time and flexibility to make up work. *Students will not be penalized for an absence from school.* We ask that you carefully follow your healthcare provider's recommendations.