



CORONAVIRUS: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

How to protect yourself, your family and your community. Find the latest updates at mpsaz.org/beprepared.

Will my student or I be penalized for staying home from school sick?

We want our students to be at school. However, when they are sick, they should stay home. The same applies to our staff members. We need our staff to be healthy in order to care for our children, so they should also stay home when they are sick.



How will Mesa handle an outbreak of illness in our community and/or schools?

For over 10 years, Mesa has had a pandemic flu response plan in place. We are in the process of updating our plan to include what we know and understand about coronavirus and its potential impact on our schools and departments. In all cases, we would work closely with the Maricopa County Department of Public Health and follow its recommendations.

At what point might the district take additional measures if needed?

If there were infections in our community, health authorities may recommend measures to lessen the spread of infection. This could include "social distancing" such as moving desks further apart and limiting activities where large groups closely gather, like assemblies or certain afterschool activities.

What measures are you taking to prevent the spread of illness?

We have put additional plans in place to increase the disinfection of schools, including surfaces and buses. Mesa Public Schools is also taking this opportunity to remind students and staff about good hand hygiene and to cover coughs and sneezes.

If my child travels, will the district restrict their reentry into school?

The district requires any students or staff traveling to CDC Level 3 areas to stay home for 14 days after travel. Depending on a myriad of factors, public health officials make a decision about whether people can return to work or school after other travel.

How will Mesa Public Schools determine when it is necessary to close a school(s)?

Closing schools would most likely be at the recommendation of public health authorities or at the direction of elected local or state officials, including the Governing Board in consultation with the superintendent. There may also be a situation where specific schools close while others remain open. We are tracking student and staff illnesses in our schools on an ongoing basis, and developing a plan to support student learning in the event of a prolonged closure.

What should I do if my child gets sick?

If your child is sick, please keep them home. Call the school and report the symptoms your child is experiencing.

Do students have the chance to wash their hands at school?

Students are given opportunities to wash their hands during the school day, and they are regularly reminded to do so.

Can/should students and staff wear masks at school?

Public health authorities do not currently recommend healthy people routinely wear masks, nor do we recommend students and staff wear masks to school.

5 tips for keeping your child and family healthy

1. **WASH** your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
2. **DON'T TOUCH** your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
3. **COVER** your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw it away.
4. **CLEAN** and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
5. **AVOID** contact with others who are sick. Stay home if you're sick.

Stay in the know!

Text "yes" to 67587 to opt in to receiving text messages from the district. Your number must be on file with your child's school. Follow us on social media @mpsaz for up-to-the-minute news. Learn more at mpsaz.org/beprepared.