



March 3, 2021

Dear Pendergast Families,

**Dr. Jennifer Cruz**  
Acting Superintendent

**GOVERNING BOARD**

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In March 2020, Governor Ducey left the decision to open schools for in-person learning up to each school district Governing Board and administration. Due to the COVID case counts and positivity rates in our District, our Governing Board and administration determined it was in the best interest of the students, staff, families, and the community we serve to remain virtual until further notice. We have kept in communication with you on a weekly basis since that decision was made, sharing the COVID-19 cases and levels in our community.

This afternoon, Governor Ducey issued a new Executive Order 2021-04 entitled, "Open for In-Person Learning". In a press release issued about the new Executive Order, Governor Ducey stated:

"Following discussions with public school leaders, and in accordance with new guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Governor Doug Ducey today issued a new Executive Order returning schools to in-person, teacher-led instruction. According to metrics developed by the CDC, 12 of Arizona's 15 counties are in phases where all schools are safe to open, including in the state's two largest counties, Maricopa and Pima. According to Governor Ducey, "Arizona's students need to be back in the classroom. More than half of Arizona's schools are open and offering in-person options. More schools need to follow their lead, and pave the way for equitable education options for every Arizona student," said Governor Ducey. "Under the order, schools are to return to in-person learning by March 15, or after Spring Break. A student may continue participating in virtual instruction if their parent or guardian chooses so."

To remain in compliance with the Governor's Executive Orders, the Pendergast District will offer an in-person learning option starting Monday, March 22, 2021, immediately following Spring Break. We will send a brief online survey regarding your choice to have your student(s) remain with virtual instruction or attend class in the school building. This information is of vital importance to us to ensure accurate planning and staffing. We need you to assist us by completing and returning the survey by **Monday, March 8, 2021**. If you cannot access the survey, please contact your child's school to seek assistance.

It is important that you know we have a COVID-19 Mitigation Plan. However, it may not be possible to have students socially distance on the bus, in classrooms, or in the cafeteria depending on the number of students that come to the in person learning option. Students will be required to wear a mask, wash their hands frequently, and follow staff directions regarding social distancing. Our Mitigation Plan can be found on our website at [www.pesd92.org](http://www.pesd92.org).

We appreciate your support through this challenging year and look forward to a productive rest of the school year. We will keep you updated as new information about our school reopening plan is available.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jennifer Cruz  
Acting Superintendent, Pendergast Elementary School District

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