



Dr. Jennifer Cruz
Superintendent

October 1, 2021

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Dear Pendergast Community,

The well-being of our students, staff, and community at Pendergast Elementary School District continues to be a priority during the pandemic.

A recent study released by the Centers for Disease Control found that schools that did not have mask requirements at the beginning of the school year, were 3.5 times more likely to have COVID outbreaks than the schools that required masks. Most of the COVID outbreaks that occurred in Arizona schools between July 15th and August 31st, were in schools that did not enforce masks at all. On September 27, 2021, a superior court ruling determined the state's ban on face-mask mandates was unconstitutional, which allows us to use layered strategies to keep our students, staff, and community healthy.

Due to increasing numbers of COVID positive students, and continued high transmission of COVID-19 in our community, the Pendergast Elementary School District will require everyone to wear face-coverings indoors on our property regardless of vaccination status beginning on Monday, October 11, 2021. We want to continue educating our students in person in the safest way possible guided by experts in the fields of public health. Therefore, we firmly believe that the new face-covering regulations will help us keep our students, staff, and communities safer from the highly contagious Delta variant.

We thank you for your understanding, cooperation, and ongoing support of our mitigation plan. We will continue to monitor health and safety conditions weekly and will notify you should we make any other changes to our [COVID-19 Risk Mitigation Plan](#). We deeply appreciate your support and belief in the Pendergast Elementary School District.

Respectfully,

Dr. Jennifer Cruz,
Superintendent,
Pendergast Elementary School District

[Pendergast COVID-19 Risk Mitigation Plan >>](#)