



St. Francis Xavier
Jesuit Elementary School
Preschool - 8th Grade

Striving to preserve the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace – Ephesians 4:3

August 25, 2021

Dear SFX Community,

It has been a great first two weeks of school and I'm grateful for everyone's support and enthusiasm! Our students are all back on campus enjoying high-level instruction, building friendships, enjoying new and healthy foods, and truly being kids for others by finding all things new in Christ. They have also brought so much energy and excitement to our campus!

The Covid-19 pandemic continues to challenge us in many ways but I am proud to say we continue to persevere and advance the mission of our school for the well-being of our students and community at large. Please click [HERE](#) for our updated Covid-19 policies.

Unfortunately, we have not seen improvements in the Covid-19 pandemic cases and will therefore continue with our indoor masking requirement through September 30. Moving forward, we will continue to assess the masking requirements on a month-by-month basis utilizing data from our specific community (SFX) and Maricopa County.

- **SFX Cases** - We have had a total of **11 positive cases** and **18 total quarantines** since August 11. The number of positive cases (11) is one higher than the most recorded cases we had in a single month from last school year (10 positive cases in December 2020). It is important to note that the total number of quarantines (18) is also very significant as this number could have been much, much higher had we not had masks required in classrooms. As I stated at the start of the school year, keeping our students in school and learning in person is an important goal and a top priority. **We are looking for these numbers to dip before changing the indoor mask requirement policy.**
- **Maricopa County Cases** - Cases in Maricopa County continue to rise and community transmission remains in the high level. **We are looking for these numbers to dip before changing the indoor mask requirement policy.**

Many families have inquired and have asked great questions about guidance used to help advise our Covid-19 protocols and public health measures. For those interested in learning more about current information and research we will host a webinar on Wednesday, September 1st at 6:00PM with Dr. Nick Staab, Dr. Ana Moran, Leila Barraza, and SFX Nurses Susan Kaiser and Barbara Combs. A link for the webinar will be sent via email soon. Following this session, I will produce and send out a SFX Covid-19 FAQs which will be featured in our September 4th newsletter.

Nick Staab, M.D., F.A.A.P. – Medical Epidemiologist, Disease Control Division of Maricopa County Department of Public Health

Ana Moran, M.D. – Infectious Diseases Specialist, Clinical Associate Professor, Barrow Neurological Institute, and Creighton University School of Medicine

Leila Barraza, J.D., M.P.H., Associate Professor, Mel and Zuckerman College of Public Health, University of Arizona

Barbara Combs RN, BSN

Susan Kaiser RN, BSN

I want to thank everyone who has taken the time to communicate with me and respectfully share their views. I recognize there are many strong opinions on mask wearing and particular protocols that have been implemented. Regardless of stance or opinion, we are one community and need to continue to stick together through what has been a true grind during this pandemic. We are called to see all things new in Christ, to see each day as a fresh start and new opportunity. I also want to acknowledge that I understand the desire to get completely back to normal, and I am committed to moving us there as safely and responsibly as possible. Let us continue to live out our Jesuit mission of being men, women, and kids for others!

Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Watson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Ryan Watson