



Dear SFX Community,

We have had a great month and our students are thriving as we head towards the completion of our first quarter!

As I have said from the start of this school year we are closely monitoring Covid-19 data (both local SFX data and county data), consulting with medical professionals, and taking into consideration applicable Covid-19 guidelines.

Listed below is data that was used to determine updates to our SFX mask policy:

- ***Preschool will begin optional indoor masking starting Wednesday, October 6***
  - SFX September data in preschool is zero cases and zero quarantines. This is lower than our August data.
  - Students under the age of 5 are reporting lower numbers of Covid-19 positive cases both at SFX and in Maricopa County.
  - Surrounding preschools who have been operating with mask optional classrooms have had success and little to no cases and quarantines.
    - Note: Preschool students should still have a mask in their backpacks. In larger gatherings, such as Mass or big indoor school events, masks will be required. Should we begin to see cases in preschool (which we hope is not the case), please note that we reserve the right to amend our policy to require masks. All faculty/staff and any adult on campus will still be required to wear a mask indoors.
- ***K-8 will continue required indoor masking through Friday, October 29***
  - SFX September data in grades K-8 is 7 cases and 22 quarantines. This is similar to our August data.
  - We had one "outbreak" as determined by Maricopa County during the month of September.
  - Maricopa County's latest Covid-19 school dashboard update shows the county remains in high transmission, with current cases at 239 per 100,000 residents and test positivity at 11% for the prior full week (9/11 to 9/17).
  - There are currently 225 active school Covid-19 outbreaks within the county. Of those, 186 active Covid-19 outbreaks are in elementary/middle schools (K-8).
  - A recent study published by the CDC found that K-12 schools without a mask requirement were 3.5 times more likely to experience a Covid-19 outbreak.



Thank you for your continued support as we navigate through the pandemic and build it up in all that we do!

Peace,

Ryan Watson