



Guidance Received from Arizona Department of Education Regarding Governor's Order

March 9, 2021

Dear TVUSD Parents/Guardians,

As communicated last week, on March 3rd, the Governing Board approved moving forward with the district's recommended Return to In-Person Instruction Plan and gave the district the authority to modify the plan as needed to be in compliance with the Governor's Order issued on the same date. The Governor issued an executive order directing districts to resume in-person instruction for elementary students, and hybrid instruction for secondary students in areas of substantial or high transmission beginning March 15th or following the scheduled Spring Break. Following the Governor's Executive Order (EO), the Arizona Dept. of Education (ADE) provided additional guidance to districts to clarify the requirements of the EO.

This communication is intended to provide clarification and updated information on the TVUSD Return to In-Person Instruction Plan, following the Governor's Executive Order and guidance from the Arizona Department of Education.

District's Initial Return to In-Person Instruction Plan

The district's initial recommendation was to return to in-person instruction 4 days a week at all schools. Based on the additional ADE guidance received late Friday, March 5th (see below), it has been determined that, at the elementary school level, we need to offer 5 days a week to be in compliance.

- View the Guidance from ADE [HERE](#)
- View the Governor's Executive Order [HERE](#)
- View the Updated CDC Guidance [HERE](#)

Governor's Executive Order

In addition to other information, the order states the following:

https://azgovernor.gov/sites/default/files/eo_2021-04.pdf

ADE Guidance

Late on Friday, March 5th, the Arizona Department of Education released guidance on what school districts need to do to be in compliance with the Executive Order.

Included was direction to return all in-person ELEMENTARY students to 5 days a week. SECONDARY students in areas of substantial/high transmission were directed to continue local plans for hybrid/online instruction. For TVUSD, secondary students will return to 4 Days a Week In-Person Instruction on March 22nd. Fridays will be reserved for individual/small group support and teacher planning.

Pima County is at the Substantial Transmission level. ADE states "All elementary schools are required to provide full in-person instruction... For example, if a school typically operates...a 5-day week calendar schedule, then they should offer five full days of in-person instruction with virtual or remote options for families."

https://www.azed.gov/sites/default/files/2021/03/EO-2021-04_FAQ%20.pdf

What this means for TVUSD Families/Students

This means starting March 22nd, ACES and TVES will offer in-person instruction 5 days a week. To do this, We will be adding some long-term substitutes to help provide additional support. Currently, the EGJH and TVHS plan is to continue to offer the initial recommended 4 days a week in-person instruction, due to the level of community transmission currently in Pima County.

District Additional Assistance Funding (DAA) will allow us to have enough temporary funding to support hiring substitute teachers to assist with online instruction. This can be done because a third round of ESSER funding was announced, and should assist with covering this cost and restore the DAA funds once received.

For a more detailed schedule and information, please refer to the district's Return to Learning Information Page, as well as the individual school websites and communications which will be sent as soon as possible.

TVUSD Return to Learning:

<https://www.tanqueverdeschools.org/ReturnToLearning.aspx>

IMPORTANT DATES - ALL SCHOOLS

- Thursday, March 11th - Requests for Cohort Changes Due/VIRTUAL Day for Students (CHANGE)
- Friday, March 12th - Grading Day, No School
- March 15th - March 19th, Spring Break, No School
- March 22nd - Resume In-Person Instruction

We continue to work toward a positive finish to the school year following Spring Break, and we appreciate your continued support and understanding as we work through the changes recently announced. If you have any questions or concerns related to your student's progress or the plan moving forward, please contact your school principal.

Thank you,

Tanque Verde Unified School District

Reminder! Cohort Changes Due by March 11th

Any families needing to make a cohort change request must do so by March 11th. Cohort selections will remain in place through the end of the school year, with limited exceptions possible.

If your student is in the A/B cohorts and wants to move to Cohort C, or vice-versa, please contact the school office. If your student is in Cohort A/B Hybrid now, and will continue to A/B In-Person 4/5 Days a Week (depending on elementary/secondary), no additional notification is required.

Mitigation Measures

With continued focus on maintaining a safe learning environment, Thursday, March 11th has been changed to an independent virtual learning day for all students.

This will allow for resetting of classrooms and other safety mitigation measures to be put in place before returning to in-person learning following Spring Break. We ask that families choosing to travel over Spring Break consider keeping students home following travel if they have been unable to limit exposure to individuals outside their immediate family/quarantine pod.

Please refer to the school presentations for more detailed information, available here:

- Elementary Presentation - [ACES & TVES](#)
- Secondary Presentation - [TVHS & EGJH](#)

District-wide mitigation measures will include:

- Screening reminders will continue to be sent.
- Students will be required to keep masks on, wash hands frequently, and maintain social distancing.
- Classrooms will be ventilated by keeping doors and windows open.
- Social distancing will be exercised to the 'greatest extent possible.
- Sites are assessing needs such as change of classroom locations and utilization of outdoor learning spaces to accommodate larger classes where

needed. (see links to presentations, above)

- Each site will manage lunchtime to maximize all available spaces on campus and enable students to spread out and maximize social distancing. (see links to presentations, above)
- Transportation will continue to be provided, however, private transportation is still recommended. Students will be seated in family groups and seating will be spaced apart to the extent possible.
- Students exhibiting any symptoms at school will be sent home, with parents required to pick students up within one hour.
- School nurses will soon be offering BinaxNOW Rapid COVID-19 testing at school sites. This will only be done with written parent permission.

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