



2701 S. Campbell Avenue • Tucson, Arizona 85713  
(520) 623-7102 • Fax: (520) 623-7125

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## **COVID-19 Response Summary, SY23**

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to be an issue here in Pima County, we are working very hard here at Southside to keep the school open.

### **Masking Policy:**

According to state law, schools may no longer require masking for students. When cases in Pima County are above 200 per 100,000 cases, Southside will strongly recommend masking. Students or staff who would like to wear masks are always welcome to do so at any time.

### **Cleaning:**

Regularly touched surfaces such as desktops, light switches, doorknobs, bathrooms, etc are being disinfected regularly. All classrooms are cleaned daily. Students are being encouraged to wash their hands on a regular basis. All classrooms always have a regular supply of hand sanitizer and disinfectant.

### **Ventilation:**

Classrooms have air purifiers, and there are multiple air purifiers in areas of high traffic, like the front office. The school has also installed new air conditioning units with higher quality filters.

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### **Testing Policy:**

Rapid Testing:

Bionex tests are individual tests that have been approved by the Arizona and Pima County Health Departments to be used in schools. These tests require a Q-tip up the nose about a half inch. Individual test results will be available within 15 minutes. Southside will test symptomatic students who are on campus and will have testing clinics open for symptomatic students once per week. Families will also be tested if resources permit. *We will continue to Bionex test all students with potential exposure and/or COVID symptoms as needed.*

### **We need your help!**

We cannot give these tests to your student without consent. The more students we can test, the more secure our campus will be from a COVID outbreak. Test results will remain confidential. Please make sure to fill out your consent form if you have not done so already so your student can participate in testing.

## **Response to Positive COVID Results**

What if a student or staff member is exposed outside of school?

If a student is exposed to COVID outside of school, they can return to school if they are not symptomatic. Masking is highly recommended by the CDC for 10 days after exposure. If they do begin showing symptoms, the student should stay home. The student can test at school if symptoms are mild and they wish to try to return to class.

What if a family member has COVID and the student is living with them?

See recommendation above. Student should isolate from their family member as much as possible and monitor for symptoms.

What if there is a positive COVID case at school?

If there is a positive COVID case at school, the school will immediately send the student or staff member home and inform the families of anyone who may have been within close contacts. Close contacts are recommended to monitor for symptoms and stay home if they are feeling sick. The person who is positive will need to quarantine for a period of 5-10 days, depending on symptoms, and be fever-free without medication for at least 24 hours before returning to school.

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Adults are considered within close contact or direct exposure with adults and children if they are within six feet for a total of 15 minutes over a 24-hour period if they are unvaccinated and/or are not wearing a mask.

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