

## Superintendent's Office

Dr. Paul Stanton, Superintendent



March 4, 2022

Dear WESD Families and Staff,

Last Saturday, February 26, I had the privilege of joining WESD staff members and their families and friends at the WESD 5K and Kiwanis Walk-a-thon at the soccer fields at ASU West. It was a gorgeous morning and great opportunity to interact and have a really good time. The proceeds from the Walk-a-thon go back to our students and schools. In this update, you'll learn about changes to the guidance for schools and the district's Return to Learning Plan related to COVID-19. Once again, thank you for your patience and Health Dashboard.

### Updated COVID-19 Guidance

This week, Maricopa County Department of Public Health (MCDPH) provided updated guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Key takeaways include the following:

- The CDC is measuring community transmission differently. Rather than looking primarily at positive case rates, the CDC is using new metrics like the number of hospital admissions and the percent of staffed inpatient beds occupied by COVID-

- Encouraging students and staff to stay home when they're sick;
- Strongly recommending the use of masks for those who are at high risk or wish to wear one;
- Frequent handwashing,
- Enhanced cleaning;
- Utilizing HEPA air filters in classrooms and large areas; and
- Social distancing, to the greatest extent possible.

It's also important to remember the steps that everyone can take to reduce the spread:

- Get vaccinated or boosted. [Vaccine and booster locations](#) for individuals five (5) and up. The vaccine is FREE!
- Need a COVID-19 test? [Maricopa County recently added new testing sites](#).
  - WESD and Glendale Union High School District (GUHSD) are also hosting free drive-through testing at nine sites. [Make an appointment here!](#)
  - [Sign up for free home test kits](#).

### Nutrition Services Job Fairs

The WESD's Nutrition Services Department will host a hiring event EVERY Tuesday from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. at the Service Center, 12641 N. 39<sup>th</sup> Avenue. They are looking for unit leaders, managers and helpers to fill full and part-time positions at several of our campuses. These positions are especially great for parents who want to be on the same schedule as their child. Visit <https://jobs.wesdschools.org/> to apply online.

### Health Dashboard Update

We continue to monitor the COVID-19 cases and the spread in Maricopa County and the WESD. The dashboard data from Maricopa County Department of Public Health and the Arizona Department of Health Services are shown at the end of this communication.

If you have any questions, please email [wesdcommserv@wesdschools.org](mailto:wesdcommserv@wesdschools.org) or call 602-347-2600.

Thankfully,

Dr. Paul Stanton  
Superintendent

4 de marzo, 2022

Estimadas Familias y Personal del WESD,

El sábado pasado, el 26 de febrero, tuve el privilegio de unirme al personal del WESD y sus familias y amigos en la caminata 5K y 'Kiwanis Walk-a-



