



9/25/20

Dear Khalsa Community,

We have successfully completed six weeks of school. We have had extraordinarily little illness and no COVID-19 cases. We are all grateful for everyone's compliance with our Fall Operating Plan. The emphasis on handwashing, mask-wearing, and extra cleaning on all campuses has served us well.

In the last month, the State of Arizona has experienced consecutive weeks of increasing then decreasing cases ([Resource](#)) as well as increasing positive percentages of those tested and declining numbers of patients in the Emergency Room who are positive or suspected positive for COVID-19 ([Resource](#)). It is a mixed picture for our county. The John Hopkins Corona Virus Resource Center ([LINK](#)) is showing Arizona with a seven day moving average of increasing positive cases. This data is not trending in the direction that we want.

The Maricopa County Public Health Department recommended metrics for re-opening schools shows our zip code ([Resource](#)) in the red for substantial community spread. The overall trend has not met all standards in Maricopa County. There is a new FAQ for parents and caregivers that is available [here](#) for families interested in learning more about recommendations and our county's response including available resources.

Khalsa Montessori School community has followed the plan and implemented risk mitigation strategies that create safe learning environments for students and staff. The challenge now is fatigue, the wishful thinking that it is all over now and we can let our guard down. Unfortunately, we cannot. A Fall Update Zoom meeting will be held next Thursday at 6.

[ZOOM MEETING](#)

Meeting ID: 820 2268 5660

Passcode: 6Tw7fF

At this time, the initial family commitments to In-Person or Distant Learning will continue as selected. Khalsa acknowledges that some families desire a shift to attending school in-person. This change is a very complex decision as it affects the class size, staffing, physical spacing, teachers, and classroom needs.

All of us must continue our vigilance in wearing masks, washing hands, and keeping healthy distances from others. It is hard, and for now, we need to continue these practices. The students have returned to school eager to learn and engage with each other. The teachers are planning for both In-person and distance learning students' new versions of traditional Fall activities. A successful school year is unfolding. Our balanced approach will guide us through this unique time.

Sincerely,

Karen Paxton