



SUBJECT: KMS Spring Update 1-8-21

Dear Khalsa Community,

Happy New Year and welcome to 2021. I wanted to thank you for your cooperation in testing for COVID-19. The community spread of the virus has worsened. Our number of infections as a percentage of the population is the worse in the United States. As a result, a new and stricter KMS Spring Operating Plan has been instituted. **This is the new policy: When traveling or gathering in groups larger than 10 members of your own household pod, students and staff are required to obtain a negative COVID-19 test before returning to school. There must be 5 days between the event and the test to assure accuracy.**

We have been vigilant in our safety protocols and continue to have some potential exposures on campus. Those affected classrooms have been notified. Today a staff member tested positive for COVID-19. They did have a negative COVID-19 result first. This person was exposed to the source of infection outside of the school environment. They had an unknown exposure in the time period from 12-31-20 to 1-4-21 during Winter Break. A negative test result was received Wednesday morning, 1-6-21, and they worked in the afternoon on Wednesday, with minimal contact with students. The following morning this person could not smell or taste and notified me. I asked that they stay home and get another test. Today, they received a test result from Monday 1-4-21 that was positive. The Maricopa County Public Health Department was promptly notified through their

online reporting format. The risk is considered minimal for the classroom. The classroom will continue to function for those families who wish to attend while awaiting the results of the entire class.

The school has maintained vigilance in monitoring health among students and staff. When positive cases are identified, deep cleaning is implemented in the affected classroom. This is how mitigating the risk of community spread is accomplished. The Maricopa County Public Health Department is our local authority and has modified its policy to align with the CDC's new 10-day quarantine recommendation where exposure to COVID-19 is known or a positive case is confirmed.

This Monday, Jan 11, vaccination scheduling will be available to our staff. Our staff has eagerly awaited their turn in the phased vaccination plan. This represents a light for us all as we contend with the COVID-19 pandemic. I am grateful for our community that has worked together to make in-person education possible. I am grateful for the sacrifices that the staff has made to restrict their lives so that they could serve in the classroom. There is always a tension between freedom and responsible choices. Our decisions and choices affect all of us. We are all connected through each other and those choices determine our personal safety as well as that of each other. The pandemic continues to teach each of us, young and old, hard lessons about the value of community and what we choose to do does matter, and we can make a difference in our families, school, and communities.

Sincerely,

Karen Paxton , Director