

COVID-19 Community Transmission Level and K-12 Learning Modes

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released updated guidance for the safe delivery of in-person learning based on the best-available evidence on February 26, 2021. MCDPH is aligning its K-12 school guidance and corresponding dashboard with the most current recommendations available, and following Gov. Ducey's [Executive Order 2021-4](#). Here are some things to consider when reviewing your data:

- Only the most recent week of case rate and test percent positivity data will be used to determine the community transmission level of COVID-19. The previous week of data shown should be referenced for historical purposes only.
- There are four indicator thresholds for case rate and percent positivity, ranging from low to high.
- The community transmission level of COVID-19 is one factor that impacts the recommended K-12 learning mode. Other important factors include the school's ability to implement 5 key mitigation strategies: universal mask use, physical distancing of 6 feet or more (to the greatest extent possible), hand washing and respiratory etiquette, cleaning and maintaining facilities, and case investigation/contact tracing in partnership with MCDPH.
- The learning mode recommendations reflect the latest data showing that COVID-19 transmission is less likely to occur in elementary school settings. Different recommendations are made for elementary schools compared with middle and high school schools at higher levels of community transmission.

See full [K-12 School Guidance](#) for detailed explanation on implementation of mitigation strategies, diagnostic testing, and learning modes by level of community transmission. For questions, [Contact Us](#).

Indicators and Thresholds for Community Transmission of COVID-19

Indicator*	Low community transmission	Moderate community transmission	Substantial community transmission	High community transmission
Total New Cases Per 100k People	0-9	10-49	50-99	≥100
Percent Positivity	<5.0%	5.0%-7.9%	8.0%-9.9%	≥10.0%

*Transmission level based on the most recent full week of data

K-12 Learning Modes by Level of Community Transmission

	Low Transmission	Moderate Transmission	Substantial Transmission	High Transmission
Elementary Schools	Hybrid learning mode or reduced attendance with physical distancing of 6 ft. or more, to the greatest extent possible.			
Middle Schools & High Schools	Full in-person with physical distancing of 6 ft. or more, to the greatest extent possible.		Hybrid learning mode or reduced attendance with physical distancing of 6 ft. or more, to the greatest extent possible.	Virtual instruction unless they can strictly implement all mitigation strategies and have few cases. Schools that are already open for in-person instruction with successfully implemented mitigation strategies can remain open, but only if they continue to strictly implement mitigation strategies and have few cases.
Sports & Extracurricular Activities	Occur with physical distancing of 6 ft. or more, to the greatest extent possible.	Occur with physical distancing of 6 ft. or more required.	Occur only if they can be held outdoors, with physical distancing of 6 ft. or more.	Virtual only.