COVID-19
Return to School Update
12/16/2021

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US COVID Data

TOTAL CASES
50,181,003
+126,503 New Cases

7 DAY CASE RATE PER 100,000
248.7

TOTAL DEATHS
797,877
+1,842 New Deaths

US COVID-19 7-Day Case Rate per 100,000, by State/Territory

Level of Community Transmission of COVID-19, by State/Territory

Data updated 12/15/21
COVID-19 in Maricopa County

- 309 schools in open outbreak status

Maricopa County has received 829,644 confirmed and probable COVID-19 cases. This number is likely to increase as there is a 4 day reporting delay from when specimens were collected.

Up ~13,300 over past week
~3,250 in 0-19 year age group

Data updated 12/15/21

Rate Benchmark: Dates 12/05/21 - 12/11/21

300 cases per 100,000 Maricopa County residents per week

Rate Benchmark: Dates 11/28/21 - 12/04/21

371 cases per 100,000 Maricopa County residents per week

Stay at home order

Stay at home order expires

County-wide order to wear face coverings

Vaccine roll-out begins
ADHS Schools Dashboard – Maricopa County

December 16, 2021
Hospitals are near capacity
Flu update

- Flu cases have doubled since last week
- Predominantly Influenza A (respiratory symptoms)
- Flu and COVID-19 share many symptoms
- Recommend testing for BOTH
Delta is still the predominant variant, and...
The Omicron variant contains more mutations than previous strains, which *appears to* lead to increased transmission and ability to infect people who have been previously infected and those who are vaccinated.
What We Know about Omicron

• **How easily does Omicron spread?** The Omicron variant likely will spread more easily than the original SARS-CoV-2 virus and how easily Omicron spreads compared to Delta remains unknown. CDC expects that anyone with Omicron infection can spread the virus to others, even if they are vaccinated or don't have symptoms.

• **Will Omicron cause more severe illness?** More data are needed to know if Omicron infections, and especially reinfections and breakthrough infections in people who are fully vaccinated, cause more severe illness or death than infection with other variants.

• **Will vaccines work against Omicron?** Current vaccines are expected to protect against severe illness, hospitalizations, and deaths due to infection with the Omicron variant. However, **breakthrough infections** in people who are fully vaccinated are likely to occur. With other variants, like Delta, vaccines have remained effective at preventing severe illness, hospitalizations, and death. **The recent emergence of Omicron further emphasizes the importance of vaccination and boosters.**

• **Will treatments work against Omicron?** Scientists are working to determine how well existing treatments for COVID-19 work. Based on the changed genetic make-up of Omicron, some treatments are likely to remain effective while others may be less effective.

## COVID-19 Vaccine Boosters

### Everyone Ages 16 and Older Can Get a Booster Shot

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If you received:</th>
<th>Who can get a booster:</th>
<th>When to get a booster:</th>
<th>Which booster can you get:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pfizer-BioNTech</td>
<td>• Teens 16-17 years old</td>
<td>At least 6 months after completing your primary COVID-19 vaccination series</td>
<td>• Teens 16–17 years old can get a Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine booster</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Adults 18 years and older</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Adults 18 years and older can get any of the COVID-19 vaccines authorized in the United States</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<tr>
<td>Moderna</td>
<td>Adults 18 years and older</td>
<td>At least 6 months after completing your primary COVID-19 vaccination series</td>
<td>Any of the COVID-19 vaccines authorized in the United States</td>
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<tr>
<td>Johnson &amp; Johnson's Janssen</td>
<td>Adults 18 years and older</td>
<td>At least 2 months after completing your primary COVID-19 vaccination</td>
<td>Any of the COVID-19 vaccines authorized in the United States</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Quarantine Protocols - Reminder

- MCDPH is following CDC guidelines – we anticipate updated guidance in next few weeks
- Potential MCDPH test-to-stay protocols will be presented to our Board of Supervisors in January
- Potential protocols will be informed by the results of our test-to-stay pilot as well as results from pilot studies from other jurisdictions
Essential workers

• In 2022 MCDPH guidance documents will be updated to reflect CDC and ADHS recommendations that DOES NOT provide for unvaccinated individuals to attend work while in quarantine
• Only vaccination status or recent infection (last 90 days) will exempt a non-vaccinated staff member from quarantine in the event of a close contact
• Most test-to-stay protocols apply to students only, not staff
• Encourage staff to BE VACCINATED
Is herd immunity possible?

• Herd immunity happens when enough people have immunity to a virus that those without are far less likely to be infected.

• The percent of the population needed to get to herd immunity is related to:
  – How contagious the disease is – $R_0$ and $R_t$
  – $R_0$ and $R_t$ change for different variants
  – What mitigations are in place
  – Mutations of the virus

• We are not close to herd immunity.
The Provisional School Staffing program is a COVID-19 emergency response initiative designed to provide health office support staff to underserved schools. As the product of a health-inequity grant, this program prioritizes provisional school staffing through a COVID-19 prioritization rubric based on the needs of both the school and its surrounding community.

Our purpose is to offset the added workload from COVID-19 related tasks, through the end of the school year.

Provisional staff are not medically certified, but can provide stable, customized assistance.

How does the Provisional School Staffing program tie in with the MRC Volunteer program?

The K-12 School Volunteer program is a project handled by the MCDPH’s Medical Reserve Corp, which provides similar services using emergency response volunteer staffing. The Provisional School Staffing and MRC’s program are complimentary and are not designed to supplant each other. MRC volunteer staffing will be taken into consideration with any provisional staffing placements.
MCDPH Provisional School Staffing

STAFF UP!

https://ppe.maricopa.gov/K12Support

Questions? Connect with us:
1. SchoolsStaffingTeam@maricopa.gov

2. Talk with a Regional School Coordinator
   • Ethan: 602-372-1424
   • Kyle: 602-372-1443
   • Main: 602-372-2060

Insight Global is hiring in your community!
https://bit.ly/MaricopaSchoolStaff
Provisional School Staffing FAQ's

https://ppe.maricopa.gov/K12Support

What is the prioritization rubric?

How are Provisional School Staff assigned?

How do staffing assignments work?
School PPE, Cloth mask, Disinfectant & Testing Requests

- To request Hand Sanitizer, Cleaning Supplies, PPE, Testing supplies, etc... fill out a request at [https://ppe.maricopa.gov/](https://ppe.maricopa.gov/)
Check for updates and FAQs!

• Email us:
  • COVID19Vaccine@maricopa.gov
  • SchoolHealth@maricopa.gov
• CARES Team: (602) 506-6767
• Website https://www.maricopa.gov/5460/Coronavirus-Disease-2019
  https://www.maricopa.gov/5493/K-12-Schools-and-Childcare-Facilities

  • CDC Recommends Vaccination for Kids 5-11: Vaccination with the Pfizer pediatric COVID-19 vaccine for children 5-11 was approved Nov. 2 following thorough review by the CDC Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). Visit our Vaccine Locations page for updates Wednesday on vaccine events for children.
  • Booster Doses: Boosters have now been authorized for Pfizer, Moderna, and Johnson and Johnson vaccines. Your booster dose may be either the same type of COVID-19 vaccine for your booster or a different COVID-19 vaccine. Learn more.
  • Looking for COVID-19 vaccine? Search for locations near you using our new vaccine finder map. Find vaccine.
  • How long to stay home if sick with COVID-19: Check out our home isolation decision-maker tool to help you know when it's safe to be around others.
  • COVID-19 text alerts: Received a text from Public Health after testing positive for COVID-19? Visit this page for information.
  • Got questions? Maricopa CARES can help! For questions related to COVID-19, including help needed locating free testing and vaccine events in Maricopa County, please call 602-506-6767 to speak with an operator from our CARES Team.
Joyful HOLIDAYS

See you January 6th!
COVID-19 VACCINES FOR KIDS AGES 5-11

The first COVID-19 vaccine authorized for kids ages 5-11 is available! Vaccines are the most effective tool we have to keep COVID-19 from spreading and to keep kids in the classroom.

3 WAYS TO GET YOUR CHILD VACCINATED

1. SCHOOL EVENTS
   Vaccines may be available through school events. Contact your school district for any events planned by the district or nearby districts.

2. COMMUNITY EVENTS
   Maricopa County Department of Public Health is offering children’s COVID-19 vaccines at most community events. See a list of community events at Maricopagov/COVID19VaccineLocations.

3. HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS’ OFFICES
   Vaccines may be available through your child’s healthcare provider:
   - See if your child’s healthcare provider is listed as a vaccinating provider at Maricopagov/COVID19VaccineLocations.
   - That page also lists other providers that are offering vaccines to the public.
   - You can also contact the Public Health CARES Team at (602) 506-6767 for help scheduling a vaccine appointment.

THINGS TO KNOW

- COVID-19 vaccines are safe, effective, and free—regardless of insurance or citizenship status.
- Some providers may require appointments. Some may take walk-ins.
- Everyone who goes to a vaccine provider or event is strongly encouraged to wear a mask for their visit.
- Some providers may have paperwork you can fill out ahead of time to reduce your waiting time.
- Need accommodations or help setting an appointment at a community event? Call the Public Health CARES Team at (602) 506-6767.
- Have questions about an event? Call the provider or organizer for details.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. WILL CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS BE GIVEN PRIORITY?
   When COVID-19 vaccines first rolled out for adults, there was not enough supply for everyone who wanted one, so they were given based on priority and risks. Now, we have enough supply of adult vaccines and children’s vaccines, so all children ages 5 and older are now eligible to get a COVID-19 vaccine.

2. WHAT DOES A CHILD NEED TO BE FULLY IMMUNIZED?
   Children will need two doses of the Pfizer vaccine, at least 21 days apart. They will be considered fully protected two weeks after their second dose. When a child is fully immunized, they do not have to quarantine after contact with a person with COVID-19.

3. WHERE SHOULD MY CHILD GET VACCINATED?
   That is up to you. All events are staffed by qualified vaccine providers who are experienced at giving vaccines. You may want to consider going to your child’s healthcare provider if you have specific questions about your child’s health, if your child needs other vaccines, or if your child is overdue on other screenings.

4. WHAT ARE THE SIDE EFFECTS FOR CHILDREN?
   Similar to adults, children may experience side effects such as fever, body aches, and chills in the first few days after getting their vaccine. These are all normal, safe signs that the body is responding to the vaccine and activating an immune response that will protect them if they are exposed to the real virus.

5. WHICH VACCINES CAN CHILDREN GET? ARE THEY FULLY APPROVED?
   The Pfizer vaccine is the only one that has been granted an emergency use authorization (EUA) for children ages 5-11. There are more steps before full approval. Other vaccine manufacturers have children’s vaccines in clinical trials, but only Pfizer is currently authorized for this age group.

   The Pfizer vaccine is also the only one that has been granted an EUA for ages 12-17. There are different doses for ages 5-11 than for ages 12 and up, so if you are unsure which option a provider is offering, be sure to ask.

Still have questions? Get more questions answered at Maricopagov/COVID19VaccineFacts or call (602) 506-6767 to speak to Maricopa County Public Health.