COVID-19
Return to School Update
12/2/2021

Peggy Stemmler, MD MBA - Contractor
Kip Schlum, MA, Emergency Planning Supervisor

Nick Staab, MD, MSPH – Medical Epidemiologist
US COVID Data

TOTAL CASES
48,497,243
+119,604 New Cases

7 DAY CASE RATE PER 100,000
174.7

TOTAL DEATHS
780,131
+1,610 New Deaths

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

Data updated 12/01/21
COVID-19 in Maricopa County

- 294 schools in open outbreak status

Maricopa County has received 799,701 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 ~28,000 over past 2 weeks

Rate Benchmark: Dates 11/21/21 - 11/27/21

277 cases per 100,000 Maricopa County residents per week

Rate Benchmark: Dates 11/14/21 - 11/20/21

345 cases per 100,000 Maricopa County residents per week

Data updated 12/01/21
ADHS Schools Dashboard – Maricopa County

December 2, 2021
From 11/13 to 11/20*, those not fully vaccinated were 3.5 times more likely to get COVID-19 than those fully vaccinated.

*These dates were calculated based on the reporting delay of COVID-19 cases.
Hospitals are near capacity

Data updated: 11/30/21
The WHO has identified five variants of concern (VOC) and eight variants of interest (VOI). They are named after the letters of the Greek alphabet.
Omicron Variant

- On 12/1 CDC and the State of California confirmed the first detected case of the Omicron variant in the US in a return traveler from South Africa.
- The Omicron variant contains more mutations than previous strains, which *might* lead to increased transmission and ability to infect people who have been previously infected and those who are vaccinated.
- *We do not know* if Omicron is more or less severe than other COVID-19 strains.
- While effectiveness of the existing vaccines against the Omicron variant is still being studied, **vaccination and boosters** remain the best line of defense against severe illness from COVID-19.
- CDC is performing enhanced surveillance to identify this strain in the US using the National SARS COV-2 Surveillance system.
## Everyone Ages 18 and Older Should Get a Booster Shot

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IF YOU RECEIVED</th>
<th>IF YOU RECEIVED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna</td>
<td>Johnson &amp; Johnson’s Janssen</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Who should get a booster:**
Everyone 18 years or older

**When to get a booster:**
- **Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna:** At least 6 months after completing your primary COVID-19 vaccination series.
- **Johnson & Johnson’s Janssen:** At least 2 months after completing your primary COVID-19 vaccination.

**Which booster should you get?**
- **Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna:** Any of the COVID-19 vaccines authorized in the United States.
- **Johnson & Johnson’s Janssen:** Any of the COVID-19 vaccines authorized in the United States.
Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine 5-11

- As of 11/30, almost 40,000 doses have been recorded in ASIIS

### Most Children and All Teens Can Get COVID-19 Vaccines

CDC recommends everyone ages 5 and older get a COVID-19 vaccine to help protect against COVID-19.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Authorized For</th>
<th>Pfizer-BioNTech</th>
<th>Moderna</th>
<th>J&amp;J / Janssen</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4 years and under</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5–11 years old</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12–17 years old</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 years and older</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine 5-11

- Different presentations for 12+ and for 5-11 years old
- BOTH require 2 doses (minimum 21 days apart)
- Person is considered **fully vaccinated** 14 days after 2nd dose
- Earliest date for a fully vaccinated 5–11-year-old would be December 9th
  - IF child was vaccinated on 11/4 and 11/24
  - Set expectations that you will continue usual quarantine protocols for close contacts until after winter break
Maricopa County is in **High Transmission** at 277 cases/100,000

Due to the circulating and highly contagious Delta variant, CDC and MCDPH recommend universal indoor masking by all students (age 2 and older), staff, teachers, and visitors to K-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status.
Continue Quarantine Protocols

- MCDPH is following CDC guidelines
- Today, the White House signaled that CDC will release findings on test-to-stay approaches in the coming weeks.
- Considerations regarding the appropriate environment for test-to-stay policies including community transmission, adherence to masking and surveillance or screening testing, are also important and will accompany any future recommendations for quarantine alternatives.
- Leadership has scheduled meetings with the Maricopa County superintendents to discuss our efforts to evaluate a Masked Test-to-Stay alternative to CDC recommended home quarantine for unvaccinated close contacts of COVID-19 cases in schools
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.

Service examples
- Performing data entry into a school’s information system, state, or county reporting systems
- Assisting with COVID-19 contact tracing using school protocols
- Notifying Parent, Guardian, Staff direct-contact exposure
- Communicating immunization compliance status (can assist with scheduling clinic appointment)
- Assisting with COVID-19 Testing (preparing test kits, sending results, entering data)
- Supporting Vision and Hearing testing
- Supporting the health office (filing, creating student records, organizing classroom first aid kits, etc.)
MCDPH Provisional School Staffing

Get your school registered!  ➡️  https://ppe.maricopa.gov/K12Support

**Get your requests in NOW for the new year**

Insight Global is hiring in your community!

➡️  https://bit.ly/MaricopaSchoolStaff

Questions? Contact us at:  📩  SchoolsStaffingTeam@maricopa.gov
School Staffing Assistance Request Form

https://ppe.maricopa.gov/K12Support
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/)

![Image of various supplies]
Check for updates and FAQs!

• Email us:
  • COVID19Vaccine@maricopa.gov
  • SchoolHealth@maricopa.gov

• 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.
What are the best ways to stop the spread?

- **Get vaccinated** if you are eligible
- Get a **booster** if you are eligible
- **Wear a face mask** in public indoor settings

COVID-19 Delta cases are on the rise so your levels of protection should be too. Vax up, then mask up to get max protection for yourself and loved ones.

Visit [maricopa.gov/covid19](http://maricopa.gov/covid19) for more information.
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 Maricopa.gov/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 Maricopa.gov/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 paperless available 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

- 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.

- 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.

- WHERE SHOULD MY CHILD GET VACCINATED?
  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.

- 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.

- 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 Maricopa.gov/COVID19VaccineFacts, or call (602) 506-6767 to speak to Maricopa County Public Health.