COVID-19
Return to School Update
12/9/2021

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US COVID Data

**TOTAL CASES**
49,322,567
+119,895 New Cases

**7 DAY CASE RATE PER 100,000**
247.7

**TOTAL DEATHS**
788,903
+1,780 New Deaths

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

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

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Data updated 12/08/21
COVID-19 in Maricopa County

- 288 schools in open outbreak status

Maricopa County has received **816,346 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.

Data updated 12/08/21
When will COVID be treated like flu?

TOTAL COVID confirmed and probably cases – Maricopa County

- Dec 9, 2020  244,231 cases
- Dec 8, 2021  816,346 cases
- Last 365 days – 572,115 confirmed and probable COVID cases

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1-year period</th>
<th>Hospitalizations</th>
<th>Deaths</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COVID – Maricopa County</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>1.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FLU – US (2019-20)</td>
<td>1.1% (~380,000)</td>
<td>0.06% (~20,000)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Hospitals are near capacity
Delta is still the predominant variant

** USA **

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WHO label</th>
<th>Lineage #</th>
<th>US Class</th>
<th>%Total</th>
<th>95%PI</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Delta</td>
<td>B.1.617.2</td>
<td>VOC</td>
<td>99.9%</td>
<td>99.8-99.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AY.1</td>
<td>VOC</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
<td>0.0-0.1%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AY.2</td>
<td>VOC</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.0-0.0%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Omicron</td>
<td>B.1.1.529</td>
<td>VOC</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.0-0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>Other*</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
<td>0.0-0.1%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Enumerated lineages are US VOC and lineages circulating above 1% nationally in at least one week period. "Other" represents the aggregation of lineages which are circulating <1% nationally during all weeks displayed.

** These data include Nowcast estimates, which are modeled projections that may differ from weighted estimates generated at later dates.

# AY.3-AY.125 and their sublineages are aggregated with B.1.617.2.
Omicron Variant

• As of December 8th, the Omicron variant has been detected in 20 states, including Arizona.

• 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.

• CDC is performing enhanced surveillance to identify this strain in the US using the National SARS COV-2 Surveillance system.
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 Update

FDA NEWS RELEASE

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update: FDA Expands Eligibility for Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Booster Dose to 16- and 17-Year-Olds

• “The Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine has been available to individuals 16 years of age and older for nearly a year, and its benefits have been shown to clearly outweigh potential risks.”
  – Peter Marks, M.D., Ph.D.

Director of the FDA’s Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research.
Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine 5-11

- As of 12/7, almost 50,000 doses have been recorded in ASIIS
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
Quarantine Protocols - Reminder

- MCDPH is following CDC guidelines
- Leadership is holding meetings with the Maricopa County superintendents to discuss our efforts to evaluate a Masked Test-to-Stay alternative for unvaccinated close contacts of COVID-19 cases in schools
- CDC has not yet made recommendations or changed guidance related to test-to-stay approaches
- 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
Essential workers

- The governor’s executive order that guides employers to allow essential workers to attend work while in quarantine has expired
- MCDPH guidance documents will be updated to reflect this in the new year, until then MCDPH guidance stands
- 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
- Plans for test-to-stay apply to students, not staff
- Encourage staff to BE VACCINATED
Why are vaccinated close contacts exempt from quarantine?

- Exemption from quarantine is based on risk assessment
- When the risk of transmission is low the benefit of in person attendance is greater
- 3-4x greater rate of infection in unvaccinated
- Mild illness means less transmission
What is the ideal timeframe for testing?

- Should symptomatic persons get tested right away?
  - YES. Whether antigen or PCR testing, tests are most sensitive when an individual has symptoms. Test as soon as possible to inform your activity (isolation from others).
  - Fully vaccinated, exposed individuals should still get tested 5-7 days after exposure, even if you don’t have symptoms.
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

*Register your schools NOW for the new year*

Insight Global is hiring in your community!

➡️  https://bit.ly/MaricopaSchoolStaff

Questions? Contact us at:

SchoolsStaffingTeam@maricopa.gov
602-372-2060
Request School Staffing Assistance

The Provisional School Staffing program is a COVID-19 emergency response staff to underserved schools. As the product of a health-inequity grant, this program uses a COVID-19 prioritization rubric based on the needs of both the school and its students. View our frequently asked questions (PDF) about this program. For additional information, please contact SchoolsStaffingTeam@Maricopa.gov.

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/)
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, even if you have had COVID-19
- Get a **booster** if you are 18+ years old
- **Wear a face mask** in public indoor settings
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 paperwork available you can fill out ahead of time to reduce your wait 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 VACCINE 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.