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# MEMORANDUM

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Date: January 28, 2022

To: The Honorable Chair and Members  
Pima County Board of Supervisors

From: Jan Leshner   
Acting County Administrator

**Re: COVID-19 Update for the February 1, 2022 Board of Supervisors Meeting**

## **Pandemic Update**

We are beginning to see indications that we are at or near the peak of the Omicron surge in Pima County. Cases may have peaked at a historic high of 17,542 cases the week of January 9, and 16,587 the week of January 16. That brings the monthly total of cases for January 2022 to 49,506 cases. Our prior peak month was December 2020 with 33,051 cases and our most recent nadir occurred in June 2021 with 1,303 cases. The impact on hospitalizations and mortality tends to lag case trends by 2 to 4 weeks so we clearly have not yet seen the peak of hospital utilization.

Diagnostic COVID-19 testing in Pima County has also been occurring at historic levels, peaking at 78,581 the week of January 9, and 69,655 the following week. At this rate of testing we will likely hit a quarter of a million tests for the month of January 2022. Positivity may have peaked at about 28 percent the week of January 16. Please note that these figures do not include the tens of thousands of self-administered rapid antigen tests which are not reportable to the State and which are now reaching mailboxes in Pima County as part of the federal government's direct distribution efforts.

## **Schools**

Schools have been hit especially hard this last week reporting 3,366 cases. Since July 20, 2021, 313 schools have reported 14,047 cases that have resulted in 343 outbreaks and 162 recommended classroom closures. Students make up 85.4 percent of cases and teachers and staff are 14.6 percent. Children up to 11 years of age represented 44.2 percent (6,204 cases) of school reported cases, while the 12 to 19-year age group made up 38.5 percent (5,499 cases) of school reported cases. (Attachment 1)

Implementing a Test-to-Stay or other school testing strategies has become increasingly difficult because of a constrained supply of what had been previously abundant COVID-19 tests. Last week the White House announced that it would begin to deliver test kits directly to school districts, and identified Tucson Unified and Sunnyside Unified School Districts among the first beneficiaries of these direct allotments. As part of this effort, the federal government is also making the pooled testing services available to schools through their contractor, Perkins & Elmer. The Pima County Health Department continues to prioritize schools for available testing resources and remains committed to providing the technical assistance necessary to support them. Since the beginning of this school year Pima County

has placed a total of 274,074 COVID-19 (self-administered and point-of-care/proctored) tests into the hand of our school partners.

### **Vaccination**

More than 1,724,994 doses of COVID-19 vaccine have been administered in Pima County. At this time 65.8 percent (or 689,187 individuals) of the population of this County is fully vaccinated (with two doses of Moderna/Pfizer or a single dose of Johnson & Johnson). Perhaps more important, 69.6 percent of the population that is 5 years and older is now fully vaccinated. Additionally, 277,885 or 40.3 percent of the fully vaccinated population has received a booster dose.

In total we have documented 34,063 breakthrough infections following complete vaccination. This is 3.2 percent of the fully vaccinated population that have developed subsequent COVID-19 infection. Breakthrough cases tend to result in less severe disease. For this reason, only 0.11 percent (702) of fully vaccinated individuals have required hospitalization, and only 0.02 percent (160) have died of COVID-19 related illness.

### **Therapeutics**

Monoclonal Antibody (mAb) therapy has been available in limited supply throughout Pima County. This was significantly improved with the addition of resources and staffing provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Through this effort 404 doses of REGEN were delivered over 14 days and in partnership with St. Mary's and St. Joseph's hospitals during. In response to the overwhelming prevalence of Omicron, this week the federal government stopped the distribution of this agent. Pima County has requested that the federal personnel originally assigned to this mAb effort be reassigned to support the testing, vaccination and other response related needs in this community.

### **The Gem and Mineral Show**

The organizers of the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show, the Pima County Attractions & Tourism, Tucson Community Center have been meeting regularly with the Health Department in order to ensure the safest possible event. For the sake of transparency and recognizing the need that indoor public events continue to occur across the community, the Health Department provides guidance for operators and attendees at [www.pima.gov/covid19eventguidance](http://www.pima.gov/covid19eventguidance). High quality communication materials and [videos](#) have been produced and are being disseminated to operators, attendees and hotels using a variety of channels. (Attachment 2). This includes the locations for testing and vaccination, guidance on mask use, and what to do if in case of a high-risk contact.

## **Conclusion**

Pima County may now be seeing the peak of this latest Omicron surge, the full impact on hospitalizations and deaths however has not yet occurred and our healthcare infrastructure remains vulnerable. Our most important tools to protect ourselves and our community have not changed. Vaccination (and boosters), staying home when sick, masking at in indoor public settings, maintaining a physical distance of 6 feet or more, and hand-washing are the most important evidence-based interventions.

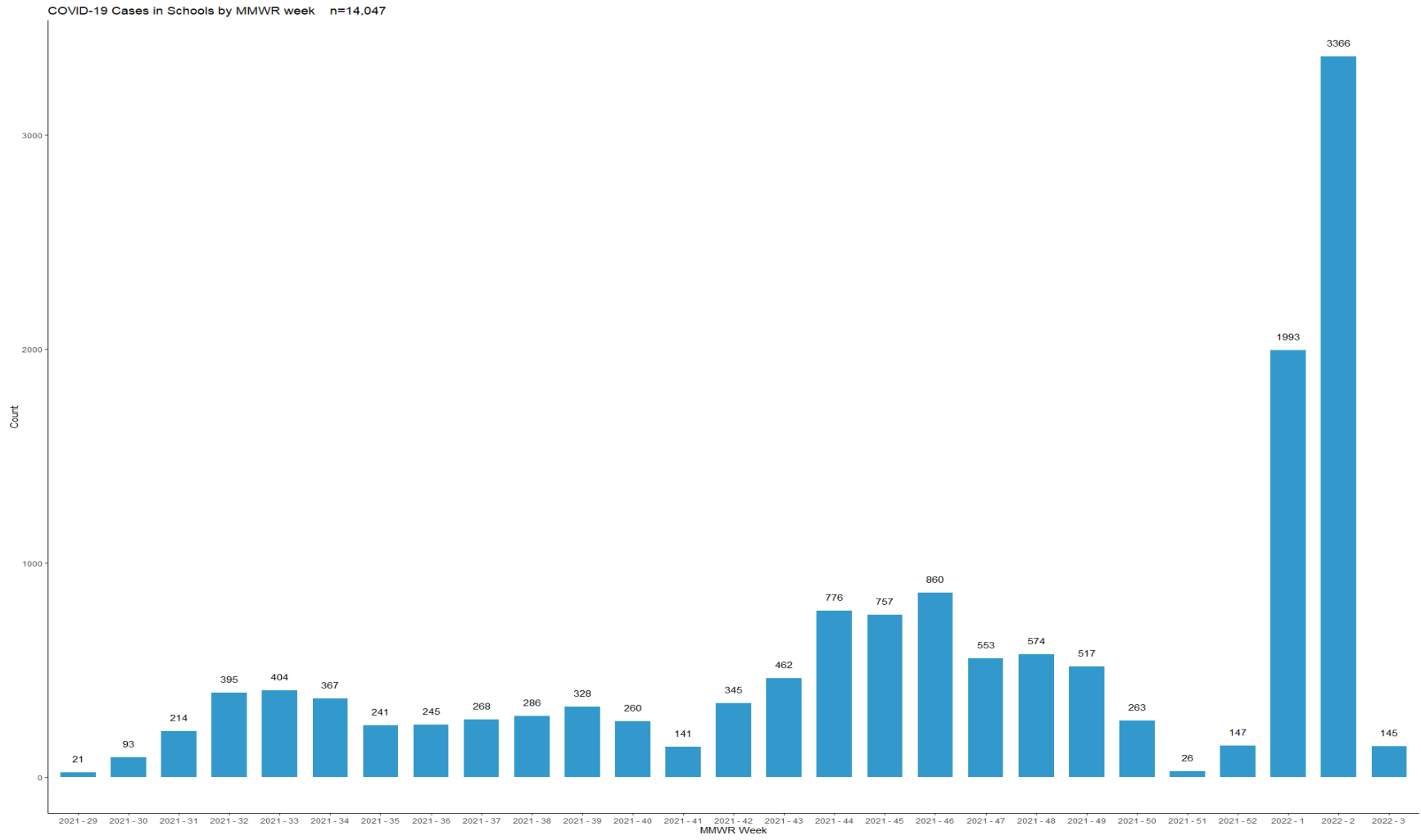
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## **Attachments**

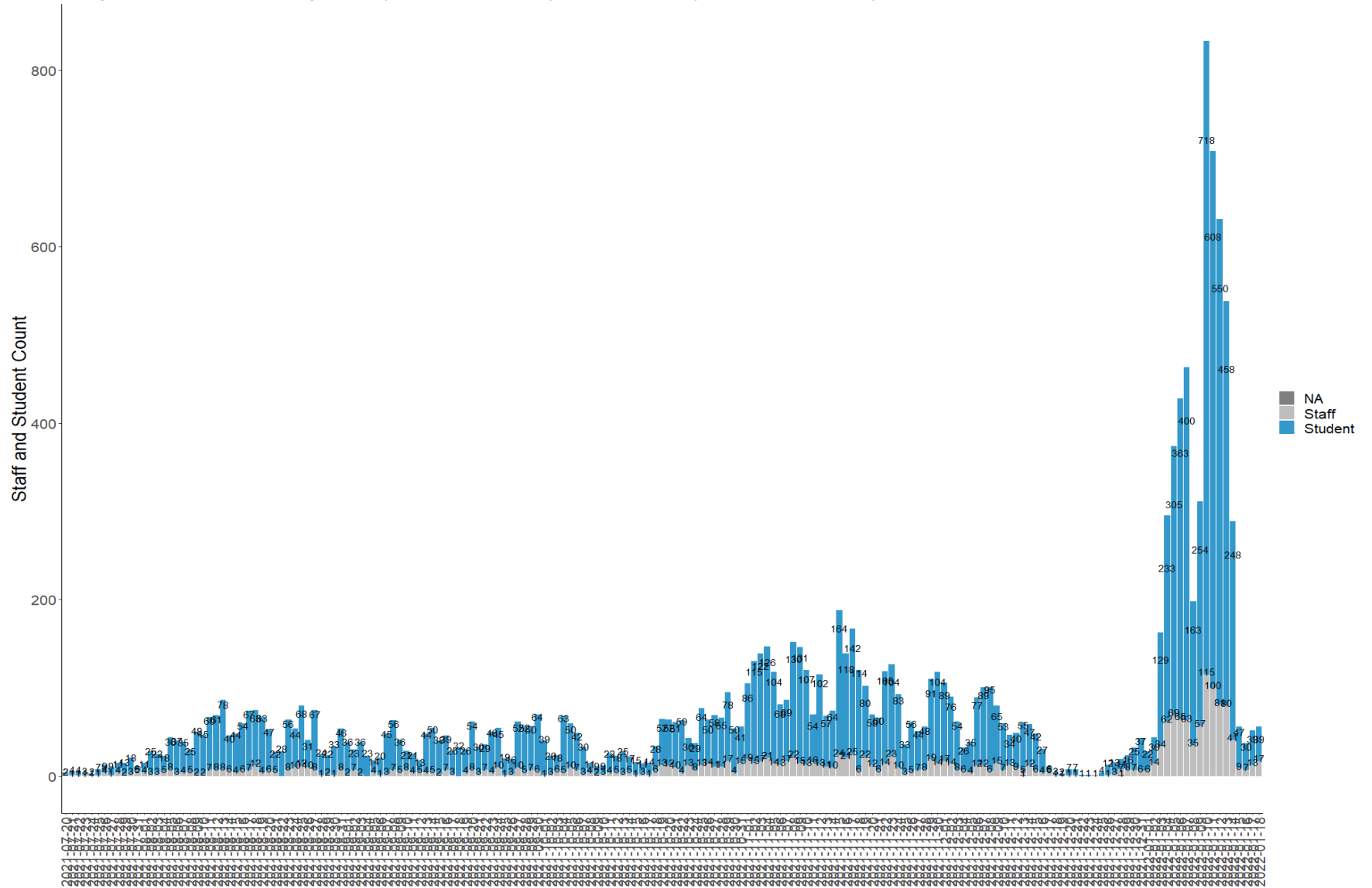
- c: Carmine DeBonis, Jr., Deputy County Administrator for Public Works  
Francisco García, MD, MPH, Deputy County Administrator & Chief Medical Officer,  
Health and Community Services  
Terry Cullen, MD, MS, Public Health Director, Pima County Health Department  
Mark B. Evans, Director, Communications Office

# ATTACHMENT 1

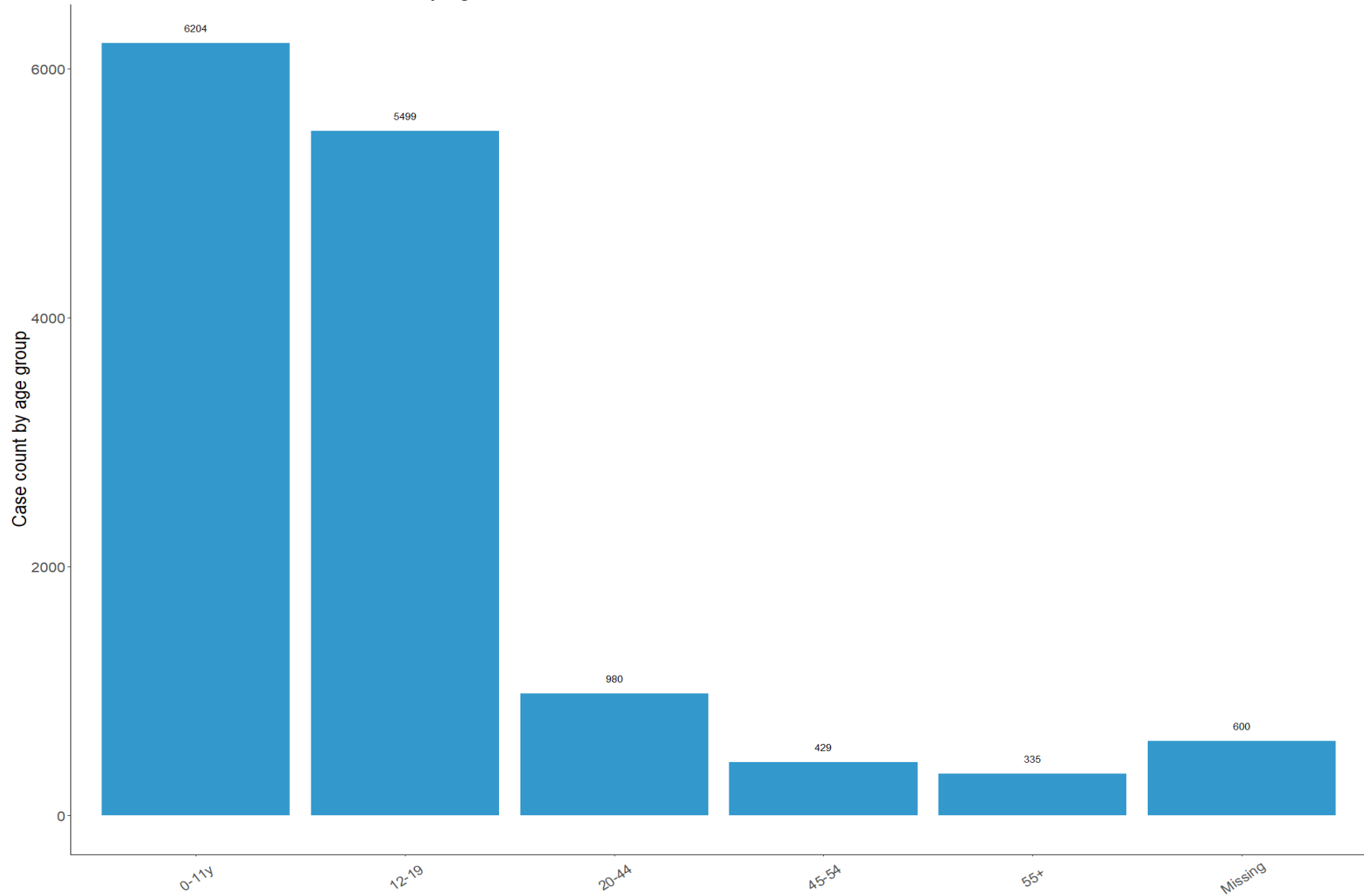
## COVID-19 in Pima County Schools



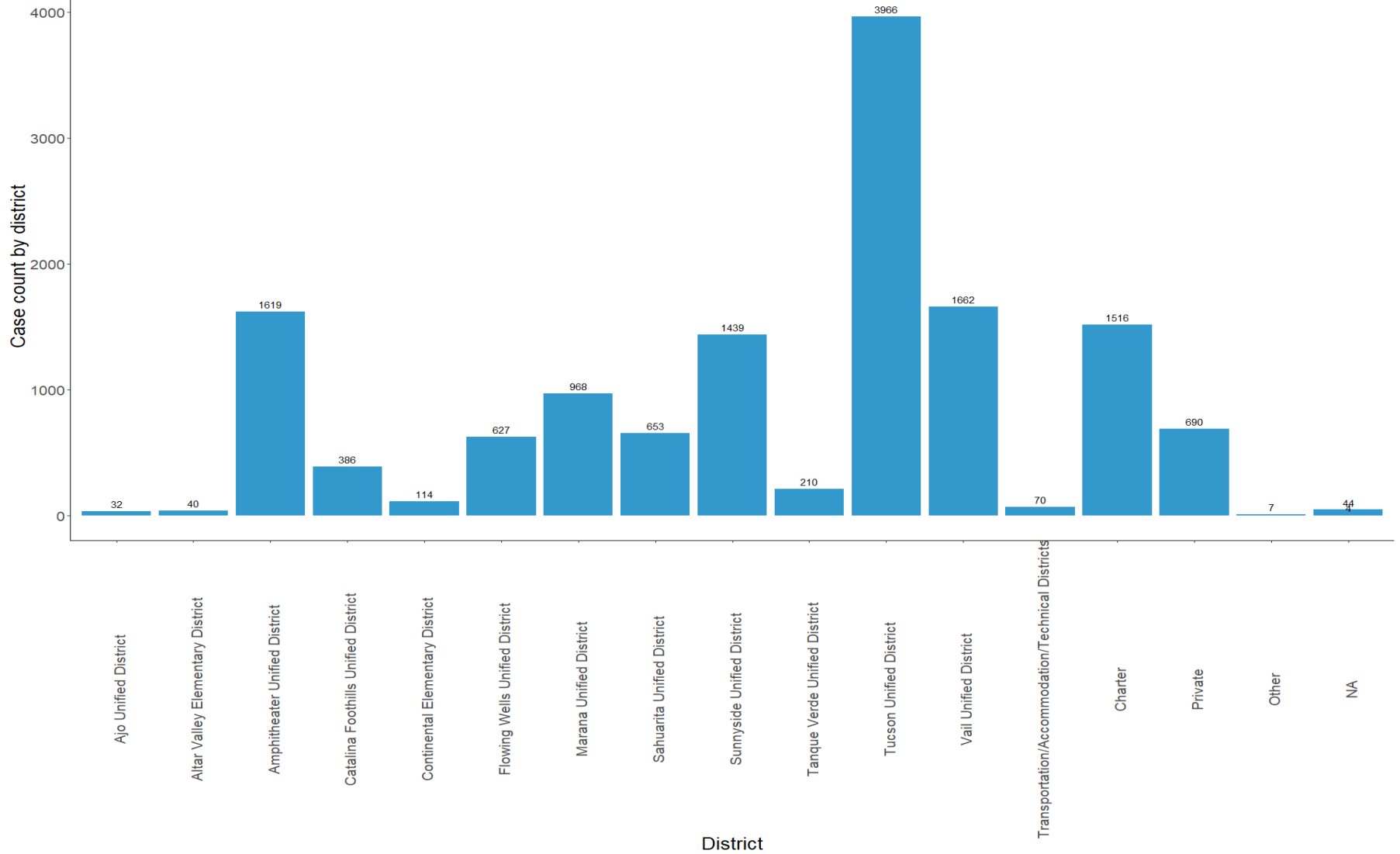
Daily COVID-19 Cases by Staff (n=2,050, 14.6%) and Student (n=11,995, 85.4%) Total n=14,047



Total COVID-19 Cases in Schools by age n=14,047



Total COVID-19 Cases in Pima County School Districts n=14,047





**Table 1: School case counts and incidence rates by district enrollment**

District	Case count	District enrollment	Case incidence rate
Ajo Unified District	32	452	7.08
Altar Valley Elementary District	40	639	6.26
Amphitheater Unified District	1,619	13658	11.85
Catalina Foothills Unified District	386	5427	7.11
Continental Elementary District	114	598	19.06
Flowing Wells Unified District	627	5649	11.1
Marana Unified District	968	12292	7.88
Sahuarita Unified District	653	6499	10.05
Sunnyside Unified District	1,439	16113	8.93
Tanque Verde Unified District	210	2103	9.99
Transportation/Accommodation/Technical Districts	70	184	38.04
Tucson Unified District	3,966	45565	8.7
Vail Unified District	1,662	13392	12.41
Other	7	1076	0.65
Charter	1,516	N/A	N/A
Private	690	N/A	N/A

**Table 2: School outbreak and classroom closures; counts and rates by district enrollment and school count by district**

District	District enrollment	School count by district	Outbreak count	Outbreak rate by district enrollment	Outbreak rate by school count by district	Classroom Closure count	Classroom closure rate by district enrollment	Classroom closure rate by school count by district
Ajo Unified District	452	1	1	0.2	100.0	0	0	0.00
Altar Valley Elementary District	639	2	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.00
Amphitheater Unified District	13658	22	27	0.2	122.7	17	0.12	77.27
Catalina Foothills Unified District	5427	9	2	0	22.2	0	0	0.00
Continental Elementary District	598	1	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.00
Flowing Wells Unified District	5649	10	1	0	10.0	2	0.04	20.00
Marana Unified District	12292	19	23	0.2	121.1	17	0.14	89.47
Sahuarita Unified District	6499	9	40	0.6	444.4	15	0.23	166.67
Sunnyside Unified District	16113	21	23	0.1	109.5	9	0.06	42.86
Tanque Verde Unified District	2103	4	11	0.5	275.0	8	0.38	200.00
Transportation/Accommodation/Technical Districts	184	1	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.00
Tucson Unified District	45565	92	135	0.3	146.7	53	0.12	57.61
Vail Unified District	13392	20	36	0.3	180.0	21	0.16	105.00
Other	1076	5	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.00
Charter	N/A	95	30	N/A	31.6	12	N/A	12.63
Private	N/A	62	14	N/A	22.6	8	N/A	12.90

# ATTACHMENT 2

# Pima County Health Department Guidance for Indoor Events

January 11, 2022 – check [pima.gov/covid19EventGuidance](https://pima.gov/covid19EventGuidance) for updates

## Masking Recommendations

On Dec. 21, 2021, the Pima County Board of Supervisors passed Resolution 2021-87 in response to a persistent surge of COVID-19 cases and deaths in the County, first brought on by the delta variant and now a larger spike from the more contagious omicron variant. ***This resolution requires masking in indoor spaces where a social distance of a minimum of 6 feet cannot be maintained.*** Please use this social distance calculator to help determine spacing: <https://www.calconic.com/calculator-widgets/social-distancing-calculator/5ef21c169444bf0029086759>

## Best practices

*The following prevention strategies are strongly recommended for indoor event venues to help curb the spread of COVID-19.*

- Provide generous and flexible cancellation policies so that if guests/attendees start experiencing symptoms, they can cancel.
- Encourage 6 feet or more distancing between all people. Venues may calculate capacity using the Social Distancing Space Calculator listed above.
- Post signage with easy to interpret graphics in commonly used languages reminding everyone to maintain 6 feet of distance, wear masks, wash hands, etc.
- Give reminders (e.g. floor markers) to observe 6 feet physical distancing before, during, and after events.
- If possible, establish single-direction traffic flow in and out of venue and seating areas. Consider separate entrances and exits. If the event is catered, do not allow for self-service stations or buffets.
- Enhance cleaning and disinfection of common touch points (doors, stairwell handles, light switch, elevator switch, etc.)
- Ensure ventilation at the venue is in line with or exceeds OSHA guidance.
- Install touchless hand sanitizing stations at entrances and in high-traffic areas. Deploy plexiglass barriers where appropriate.
- Booths or vendors at events should:
  - Allow spacing for vendor load-in and load-out such that vendors and staff can maintain a distance of at least 6 feet from each other as much as possible.
  - Add a minimum of 6 feet in between booths.
  - Create a single line of booths instead of double rows. If this is not possible, create at least a 12 to 16 feet thoroughfare between the two sides allowing for a single file, one-way path down the middle.
  - Recommend that vendors have market booth layouts that promote social distancing.
  - Create one-way traffic flow through the booths to prevent crowding or mingling.
  - Use ropes, cones or tape to define the entrance, exit and flow.

## Vendors/Employees

- Stay home if ill.
- Encourage employees to get vaccinated against COVID-19. Consider hosting an employee vaccination event through a PCHD vaccination program.
- Provide guidance and encouragement on maintaining 6 feet of physical distancing.
- Recommended hand sanitation upon arrival, departure and throughout the day.
- Employees who have been in close contact with an exposed or symptomatic person (within 6 feet for at least 15 minutes over 24 hours) should not report to work and should self-quarantine, unless they have been fully vaccinated and are asymptomatic.
- Provide contactless payment methods.
- Extend setup timelines to allow vendors more time to set up and not overlap.

## Performers/competitors

*\*Research and the CDC suggest that activities like singing may project respiratory droplets in greater quantity and over greater distance, increasing the risk of COVID-19 transmission, particularly with prolonged exposure.*

- Performances with vocal speech or singing, wind or brass instruments, or activities that create heavy breathing should be 12 feet from the audience if the performer is wearing a mask. \*If not wearing a mask, performers should be 25 feet from audience. Performances with no forced exhalation, such as from a piano, harp, or organ player, should be a minimum of 6 feet from audience, but 12 feet is preferred.
- Participants (e.g., players, performers, actors, competitors, entertainers, etc.) in events should self-report any symptoms, and participants who have been in close contact with an exposed or symptomatic person (within 6 feet for at least 15 minutes) should not participate and should self-quarantine, unless they have been fully vaccinated and are asymptomatic.
- Adopt seating and spacing modifications to increase physical distance from a performer.
- Maximize physical spacing between performers on-stage.
- Performers should use a separate entrance/exit than audience where possible.
- Frequently disinfect high-touch areas and equipment such as microphones, instruments, props, etc., between uses.

## Attendees

- Encourage attendees to stay home if sick or exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms.
- Encourage unvaccinated attendees who have been in close contact with a person suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19 (within 6 feet for at least 15 minutes) to stay home.
- Encourage frequent hand sanitizing.
- Encourage attendees to refrain from mixing and mingling with others not in their household during events as much as possible.
- Attendees are required to wear masks in indoor spaces where a social distance of a minimum of 6 feet cannot be maintained, per the Pima County Board of Supervisors' Resolution 2021-87.
- Unvaccinated people are at a higher risk for severe COVID-19 and should consider additional protections or staying home.

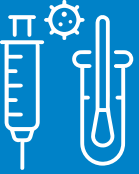




# TUCSON GEM SHOW 2022 ATTENDEE INFORMATION

**PIMA COUNTY IS ON HIGH ALERT FOR COVID-19**

For more information, visit: [pima.gov/covid19eventguidance](https://pima.gov/covid19eventguidance)



## VACCINATION/TESTING

Everyone is eligible for free vaccination and testing, regardless of residency!



VACCINE

[pima.gov/covid19vaccine](https://pima.gov/covid19vaccine)



TESTING

[pima.gov/covid19testing](https://pima.gov/covid19testing)



## MASK GUIDANCE

Per the Pima County Board of Supervisors, everyone in the County is **REQUIRED** to wear a face covering in indoor public settings when six feet of physical distance cannot be maintained.

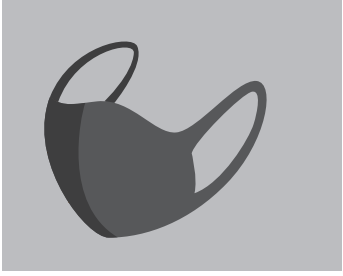


MASKING

[pima.gov/maskuppc](https://pima.gov/maskuppc)


## KNOW YOUR MASKS

**GOOD!** ★☆☆



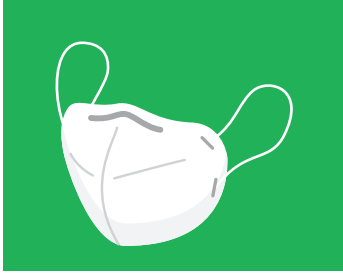
*CLOTH MASK*

**BETTER!** ★★☆☆



*SURGICAL MASK*

**BEST!!!** ★★★



*N95/KN95/KF94 MASK*



## EXPOSURE/CLOSE CONTACT

Have you developed CV-19 symptoms or are you a close contact? Here are quarantine guidelines and what steps you need to take to stay healthy.



SICK

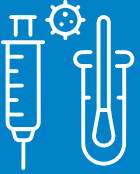
[pima.gov/covid19sick](https://pima.gov/covid19sick)

# TUCSON GEM SHOW 2022

## INFORMACIÓN PARA ASISTENTES

**EL CONDADO PIMA ESTÁ EN ALERTA ALTA DE COVID-19**

Para más información, visite: [pima.gov/covid19eventguidance](https://pima.gov/covid19eventguidance)



### VACUNACIÓN/EXÁMENES

¡Todos son elegibles para vacunas y exámenes gratis, sin importar su residencia!



VACUNA

[pima.gov/covid19vaccine](https://pima.gov/covid19vaccine)



EXAMEN

[pima.gov/covid19testing](https://pima.gov/covid19testing)



### USO DE CUBREBOCAS

La Junta de Supervisores del Condado Pima ha declarado OBLIGATORIO el uso de cubrebocas en lugares públicos cubiertos cuando no se puede mantener una distancia física de 6 pies.

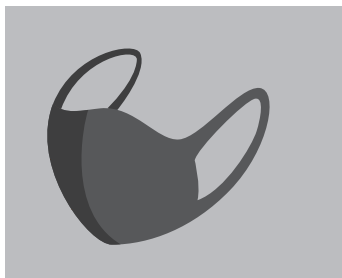


CUBREBO

[pima.gov/maskuppc](https://pima.gov/maskuppc)

### CONOZCA SUS CUBREBOCAS

¡BUENA!



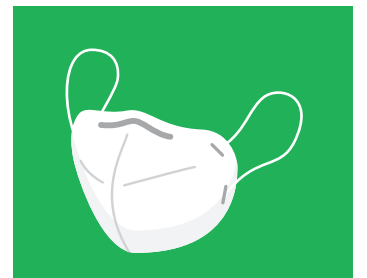
CUBREBOCAS

¡MEJOR!



CUBREBOCAS QUIRÚRGICOS

¡LA MEJOR!



CUBREBOCAS N95/KN95/KF94



### EXPOSICIÓN/CONTACTO CERCANO

¿Ha desarrollado síntomas de CV-19 o es un contacto cercano? Aquí puede ver las reglas de cuarentena y que pasos tomar para mantenerse saludable.



ENFERMO

[pima.gov/covid19sick](https://pima.gov/covid19sick)