



Public Health Advisory Update COVID-19

Updated May 14, 2021

This is a rapidly evolving situation. The public health advisory will be updated when critical new information and recommendations are needed.

The Pima County Health Department (PCHD) is committed to ensuring that our community is able to resume the variety of activities previously experienced before the pandemic. This update to the April 23, 2021 Public Health Advisory (PHA) provides a status update of the pandemic in Pima County, including the latest on vaccination efforts, disease situation, and ongoing recommendations to reduce the impact of COVID-19. The Department will continue to provide Public Health Advisory Updates that are informed by an analysis of increasing data and knowledge about COVID-19.

What We Know

COVID-19 is highly contagious and spreads primarily through person-to-person contact. Significant community and individual adherence to mitigation recommendations as well as high vaccination rates have been demonstrated to decrease illness and death.

There have been over 115,000 COVID-19 cases diagnosed in Pima County as of May 13, 2021. 2,407 deaths have been attributed to COVID-19 since the start of the pandemic. The number of cases and deaths have significantly slowed over the past 6 weeks. **Over one out of every 450 residents** of Pima County have died due to COVID-19. The availability of clinical services, hospital beds and timely epidemiological response continues to improve across Pima County.

COVID-19 Response Updates

Vaccination

- As of May 14, 2021, over 511,000 residents of Pima County have received COVID-19 vaccines at numerous locations throughout the state, including the state POD, and 49% of the population 18 or older are fully vaccinated. Over 76% of people 65 and over have been fully vaccinated.
- The Pima County Vaccine Data Dashboard has further information about vaccine distribution in Pima County is available at <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view>
- Anyone 12 years or older can receive the COVID-19 vaccine in Pima County. Vaccine is broadly available to rural areas and vulnerable populations through mobile points of distribution, retail pharmacies, schools, faith communities, businesses, community health centers and other organizations. Further information is available at www.pima.gov/covid19vaccine
- A growing body of evidence suggests that fully vaccinated people are less likely to have asymptomatic infection and to be able to transmit SARS-CoV-2 to others. Studies show full vaccination to be >90% effective in the real-world settings in preventing mild and severe disease, hospitalization, and death. If you are vaccinated, you are less likely to spread the virus.
- If an individual who is vaccinated develops symptoms of COVID-19, they should resume mask use and get tested for COVID-19.
- If you are not fully vaccinated, you should continue to wear a mask to protect yourself and others who have not yet been vaccinated.

Therapeutics

- Monoclonal antibody therapies remain available in Pima County under Emergency Use Authorization. More information is available www.pima.gov/covid19mab and <https://www.covid19treatmentguidelines.nih.gov/statement-on-bamlanivimab-plus-etesevimab-eua/>.

COVID-19 Mitigation Measures

- **Face Coverings** – Anyone who is fully vaccinated can participate in indoor and outdoor activities without wearing a mask or physically distancing.

- Individuals who are not vaccinated should continue to wear masks and maintain 6 feet distancing until they are fully vaccinated.
- Fully vaccinated individuals who are immune compromised, including those undergoing transplant or cancer treatment, should seek the guidance of their clinical care team before discontinuing mask use.
- Regardless of vaccination status, correct use of well-fitted face coverings may be required by local governments, businesses, schools, health care facilities, or other entities that serve the public.
- Fully vaccinated residents and employees of correctional facilities, homeless shelters, congregate living facilities and health care facilities should still wear a mask.
- In general, people are considered fully vaccinated:
 - 2 weeks after their second dose in a 2-dose series, such as the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines
 - 2 weeks after a single-dose vaccine, such as Johnson & Johnson's Janssen vaccine
 - If you don't meet these requirements, regardless of your age, you are NOT fully vaccinated and should continue to wear a mask and take other precautions

Maintenance of Public Health Mitigation Measures

- PCHD recommends the following of mitigation measures be continued by all:
 - Frequently wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer
 - Stay home when sick with a fever, cough, or other COVID-19 symptoms
 - Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or fabric or, if not possible, into their sleeve or elbow (but not into hands)
 - Avoid poorly ventilated and crowded spaces

Travel

- Individuals are still required to wear a mask on planes, buses, trains, and other forms of public transportation traveling into, within, or out of the United States and in transportation hubs such as airports, bus, train or other transit stations.

Mandatory Reporting

- Mandatory reporting of confirmed and suspected cases of COVID-19 cases **continues to be a requirement** of schools, businesses, and government entities.
- Schools, businesses and governmental entities must require employees or students to report if they test positive for COVID-19 and were present in the workplace or school within the 48 hours prior to onset of symptoms or testing.
- Entities should instruct employees, staff or students to adhere to isolation and quarantine protocols specified by the County and exclude positive cases and close contacts from the school or workplace during the isolation or quarantine periods.

School and Childcare Settings

- As of today, the CDC's school guidance remains unchanged. Most students will still be unvaccinated, and schools should continue to require mask use where physical distancing is not possible and follow their school districts guidance. Teachers, school administrators, and staff should continue to follow CDC's school guidance.
- The school dashboard indicates that Pima County is considered to have moderate transmission; data is available at <https://www.azdhs.gov/covid19/index.php#schools-dashboard>
- The Health Department continues to support schools and districts in implementing strong layered mitigation strategies as a part of their return to learning.

Who Should Continue to Mask?

- People who are not fully vaccinated.
- People who are vaccinated and develop symptoms of COVID-19 should resume mask use and get tested for COVID-19.
- People on planes, buses, trains, and other forms of public transportation traveling into, within, or out of the United States and in transportation hubs such as airports, bus, train or other transit stations.

- Residents and employees of correctional facilities, homeless shelters, congregate living facilities and health care facilities regardless of vaccination status.
- Students, teachers, school administrators and staff should continue mask use in accordance with the CDC's school guidance.
- People who are attending large indoor events (greater than 1000).

County Response Priorities for 2021

Pima County is working to build infrastructure that supports a strong community, using the lessons learned from our response to the COVID-19 Pandemic. We are committed to:

- continuing to ensure COVID-19 vaccine availability and delivery throughout the community.
- advancing health equity and access to services for our diverse population.
- enhancing public health infrastructure.
- increasing engagement with Pima County residents.
- supporting individuals and families impacted by COVID-19.

The Pima County Health Department helps to guide the COVID-19 response and recommend appropriate layered mitigation that should help minimize COVID-19 transmission and save lives. As we have realized over the previous year, the situation is fluid. PCHD recognizes the ongoing strain associated with the COVID-19 pandemic on individual lives as well as our educational institutions, businesses and community. PCHD remains grateful for the County residents' cooperation and commitment to wellness.