Pima County 2021-2022 School Year

COVID-19 Recommendations for K-12 Schools

PCHD strongly recommends that people who have not been vaccinated get the vaccine.

PHYSICAL DISTANCING
Maintain at least 3 feet of physical distance between students within classrooms, combined with indoor mask wearing to reduce transmission.

When 3 feet of physical distance can’t be maintained, layer other prevention strategies, such as:
• Staying home when sick with symptoms of infectious illness including COVID-19
• Indoor masking
• Testing
• Grouping students into cohorts
• Improved ventilation
• Handwashing and covering coughs and sneezes,
• Regular cleaning to help reduce transmission risk

A distance of at least 6 feet is recommended between students and teachers/staff, and between teachers/staff who are not fully vaccinated (CDC, 2021)

MASKS
All staff and students 5 years or older should wear masks indoors unless medical or developmental conditions prohibit their use regardless of vaccination status. (CDC, July 27, 2021)

In general, people do not need to wear masks when outdoors. The CDC recommends that people who are not fully vaccinated wear a mask in crowded outdoor settings or during activities that involve sustained close contact with other people who are not fully vaccinated. Pima County is currently in substantial COVID-19 transmission. (CDC, 2021)

FOOD
There are currently no restrictions on:
• Food preparation (outside of food handling guidelines and safety)
• Cafeteria (hot and cold food)
• Paying for and scanning lunch cards
• Staff eating areas and breakrooms
• Staff pot lucks
• High school lunches

TESTING
PCHD supports the use of BINAX in schools for testing symptomatic contacts and recommends working with the state-approved vendor to implement pooled testing.

POSITIVE CASES*
PCHD will conduct the contact tracing and case investigation for positive cases. The ability to conduct contact tracing is contingent upon schools providing a list of “close contacts” along with information needed to communicate with these individuals.

What’s a close contact?
• Anyone within 6 feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period.
• An infected person can spread Covid-19 starting from 2 days before they have any symptoms (or 2 days before the positive specimen collection date) until they meet criteria for discontinuing home isolation.
• Continued isolation and quarantine recommendations will be provided by PCHD through contact tracing and case investigation. PCHD will initiate contact tracing.
• PCHD will provide logistical support to schools who would like to provide on-site vaccination events.

Wear a mask regardless of your vaccination status.