



Public Health Advisory Update COVID-19 2021-09

Updated July 1, 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 safely resume the variety of activities previously experienced before the pandemic. This update to the May 14, 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. Genetic variants are increasingly common across the U.S., and the alpha variant has become the dominant variant in the state and Pima County. These emerging variants are significant since some are more transmissible and may be associated with serious complications, hospitalization and even death.

There have been over 117,783 COVID-19 cases diagnosed in Pima County as of June 30, 2021. More than 2,427 deaths have been attributed to COVID-19 since the start of the pandemic, an increase of 20 deaths since May 13. **More than 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.

Since May, PCHD has submitted approximately 10 percent of positive PCR tests to the state for sequencing. In Pima County at this time the alpha variant has been sequenced from 285 cases and the delta variant from two cases.

Clinical COVID-19 testing continues to be available at no cost in the county at [Pima County COVID-19 Testing Centers - Pima County](#)

COVID-19 Response Updates

Vaccination

- As of June 30, 2021, over 597,000 residents of Pima County have received at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccines at numerous locations throughout the state, including the state POD. This is an increase of 86,000 vaccinations since May 14; over 57% of the population 18 or older are fully vaccinated. Over 80.6% of people 65 and over have been fully vaccinated.
- The Pima County Vaccine Data Dashboard with further information about vaccination rates in Pima County is available at <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view>
- Fully vaccinated people are less likely to have asymptomatic infection and to transmit SARS-CoV-2 to others. In the event of infection, vaccinated individuals are less likely to develop severe disease, require hospitalization or die.
- Anyone 12 years or older can receive the Pfizer-Biotech COVID-19 vaccine in Pima County. Pima County Health Clinics have COVID-19 vaccines available at no cost. Further information on vaccine availability is at www.pima.gov/covid19vaccine
- 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
- At this time, over 95% of people diagnosed with COVID-19 are unvaccinated.

Therapeutics

- Combination monoclonal antibody therapies remain available in Pima County under Emergency Use Authorization. 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.
 - Fully vaccinated residents and employees of correctional facilities, homeless shelters, congregate living facilities and health care facilities or 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 should still wear a mask.
 - 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.
 - Individuals who are unvaccinated and those not fully vaccinated should continue to wear masks and maintain 6 feet distancing until they are fully vaccinated.
 - People who are vaccinated and develop symptoms of COVID-19 should resume mask use and get tested for COVID-19.
 - Regardless of vaccination status, correct use of well-fitted face coverings may be required by businesses, health care facilities, public transportation or other entities that serve the public.

Maintenance of Public Health Mitigation Measures

- PCHD recommends the following of mitigation measures be continued by all:
 - 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)
 - Frequently wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer
 - Avoid poorly ventilated and crowded spaces

Reporting

- Reporting of confirmed and suspected cases of COVID-19 cases **to Pima County Health Department** continues to be required for schools, businesses, and government entities if individuals 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

- PCHD strongly recommends that children who are not fully vaccinated wear a mask in school in accordance with the current CDC 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 as of this date; 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.

County Response Priorities for 2021

Pima County supports a strong community recovery and we are committed to:

- Continuing to ensure COVID-19 testing and vaccine availability at no cost throughout the community.

- Advancing health equity and access to services for our diverse community.
- 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. 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.