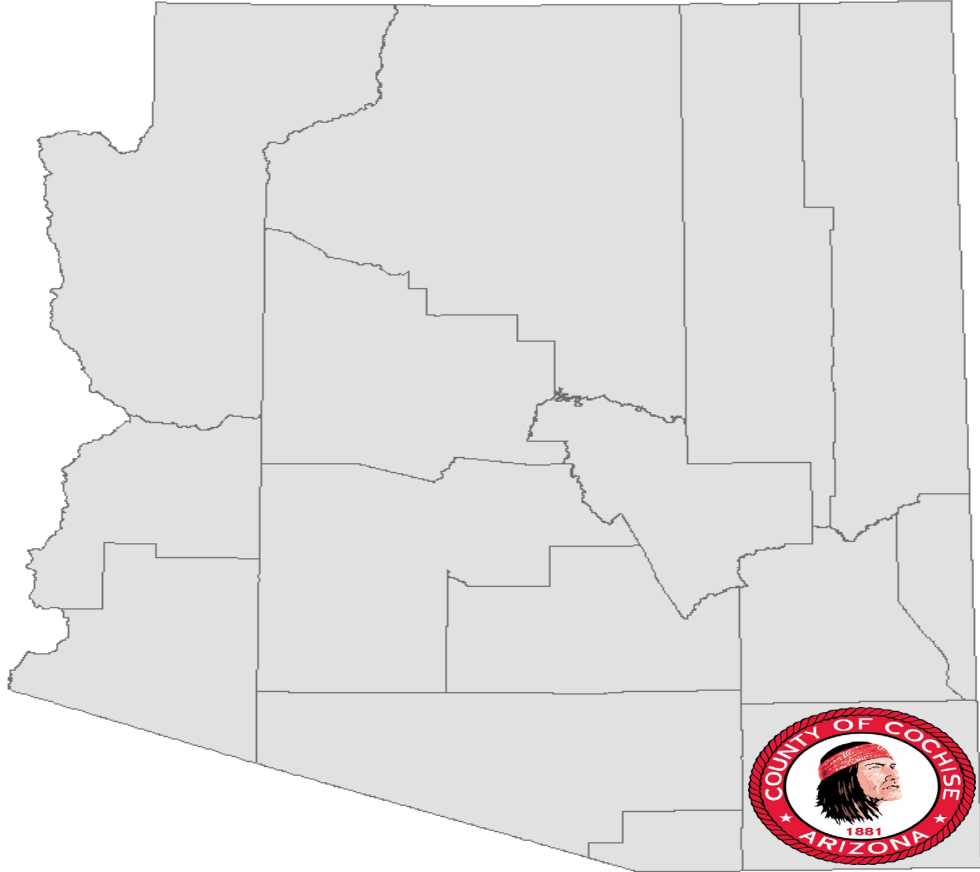


Current Status of Schools in Cochise County

Board of Supervisors Meeting 3/12/2021





Cochise Health
and Social Services

WELCOME

*Ginger Dixon, MS, LPN
Epidemiologist*



Cochise Health & Social Services

Public Programs...Personal Service

www.cochise.az.gov

*Dr. Alicia Thompson, DrPH, MSW,
Health Director*

Agenda

- ADHS Executive Order 2021-04
- COVID-19 School Benchmarks

- Mitigation Strategies
- Phased Mitigation and Learning Modes

- Mitigation and Learning Modes
- Cochise County Status

- Questions?



ADHS Executive Order 2021-04

ADHS Updates – Executive Order

- K-12 schools to open for in-person instruction by 3/15/21 or the Monday following Spring Break, if applicable.
- Substantial and High Transmission categories allow for hybrid learning or reduced attendance
- The requirement is that every student has the option for in-person learning, but it is still up to the discretion of the student/families.
- Hybrid learning is still permitted, if in-person learning is still available.

COVID-19 School Benchmarks

Indicators & Learning Delivery Recommendations

Community Transmission to Reflect Level of Community Risk

The first step in determining when and how to safely reopen schools involves assessing community transmission of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. CDC recommends the use of two measures of community burden to determine the level of community transmission. These measures are used to assess the incidence and spread of COVID-19 in the community, not the school itself. Risk is dependent on community level transmission and implementation of school and community mitigation strategies.

Indicator	Low Transmission	Moderate Transmission	Substantial Transmission	High Transmission
Total new cases per 100,000 persons in the last 7 days	0 – 9	10 – 49	50 – 99	≥ 100
Percentage of nucleic acid amplification tests (NAATs) that are positive during the past 7 days	<5.0%	5.0% – 7.9%	8.0% – 9.9%	≥ 10.0%

Recommended Implementation of Mitigation Strategies and K-12 School Learning Modes by Level of Community Transmission

Low Transmission	Moderate Transmission	Substantial Transmission	High Transmission
K-12 schools open for full in-person instruction		Elementary schools in hybrid learning mode or reduced attendance	Middle and high schools in virtual instruction unless they can strictly implement all mitigation strategies and have few cases. Schools that are already open for in-person instruction with successfully implemented mitigation strategies can remain open, but only if they continue to strictly implement mitigation strategies and have few cases
	Middle and high schools in hybrid learning mode or reduced attendance		

For detailed mitigation strategies and remarks see the K-12 School Guidance for COVID-19.

For additional information & the schools dashboard, visit [azhealth.gov/schoolsCOVID19](https://www.azhealth.gov/schoolsCOVID19).

Updated: 3/2/2021



COVID-19 School Benchmarks

Indicators: Community Transmission to Reflect Level of Community Risk

The first step in determining when and how to safely reopen schools involves assessing community transmission of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. CDC recommends the use of two indicators of community burden to determine the level of community transmission. These indicators are used to assess the incidence and spread of COVID-19 in the community, not the school itself. Risk is dependent on community level transmission **and** implementation of school and community mitigation strategies.

Indicator	Low Transmission	Moderate Transmission	Substantial Transmission	High Transmission
Total new cases per 100,000 persons in the last 7 days	0 – 9	10 – 49	50 – 99	≥ 100
Percentage of nucleic acid amplification tests (NAATs) that are positive during the past 7 days	<5.0%	5.0% – 7.9%	8.0% – 9.9%	≥ 10.0%



Mitigation and Learning Modes

Recommended Implementation of Mitigation Strategies and K-12 School Learning Modes by Level of Community Transmission

Low Transmission	Moderate Transmission	Substantial Transmission	High Transmission
<p>Key Mitigation Strategies: Universal and correct use of masks is required; physical distancing of 6 feet or more, to the greatest extent possible¹; handwashing and respiratory etiquette²; cleaning and maintaining health facilities; contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine.</p>			
<p>Sports and extracurricular activities: physical distancing of 6 feet or more, to the greatest extent possible³</p>	<p>Sports and extracurricular activities: physical distancing of 6 feet or more</p>	<p>Sports and extracurricular activities: occur only if they can be held outdoors, with physical distancing of 6 feet or more</p>	<p>Sports and extracurricular activities: virtual only</p>
<p>Diagnostic testing⁴: Symptomatic students, teachers, and staff and close contacts referred for diagnostic testing</p>			
<p>K-12 schools open for full in-person instruction</p>		<p>Elementary schools in hybrid learning mode or reduced attendance⁵</p> <p>Middle and high schools in hybrid learning mode or reduced attendance</p>	<p>Middle and high schools in virtual instruction unless they can strictly implement all mitigation strategies and have few cases.</p> <p>Schools that are already open for in-person instruction with successfully implemented mitigation strategies can remain open, but only if they continue to strictly implement mitigation strategies and have few cases⁶</p>



Cochise County Status

Cochise County Status

- Current Transmission Level: Substantial
 - Case Rate – Substantial
 - Positivity – Moderate
- Substantial transmission
 - all schools open with in-person and virtual instruction options; middle and high schools may reduce attendance to increase physical distancing.

COVID-19 School Benchmarks

Community Transmission By Arizona County

This guidance outlines recommendations for K-12 schools to prepare for and respond to community spread of COVID-19 based on CDC's K-12 [Operational Strategy](#) and [Indicators for Dynamic School Decision Making](#), and Arizona Department of Education's [Roadmap to Reopening Schools](#). LEAs are encouraged to continue to partner with their [local health department](#).

County	Case Rate	% Positivity	Transmission Level
Apache	Substantial	Low	Substantial
Cochise	Substantial	Moderate	Substantial
Coconino	High	Low	High
Gila	Substantial	Moderate	Substantial
Graham	Moderate	Low	Moderate
Greenlee	Substantial	Moderate	Substantial
La Paz	Substantial	Low	Substantial
Maricopa	Substantial	Moderate	Substantial
Mohave	Substantial	Substantial	Substantial
Navajo	High	Low	High
Pima	Substantial	Low	Substantial
Pinal	High	Moderate	High
Santa Cruz	Moderate	Low	Moderate
Yavapai	Substantial	Moderate	Substantial
Yuma	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate

For additional information & the schools dashboard, visit azhealth.gov/schoolsCOVID19.

Updated: 3/7/2021



Cochise County Status

Individual schools may close if the local health department, with ADHS approval, recommends closure due to a significant outbreak of COVID-19 that poses a risk to students or staff.

New transmission percent positivity data does not include antigen tests, but only confirmed PCR tests. Data on the ADHS dashboard is not aligned with counties currently but will sync in the upcoming week.

Consideration time for the switching of instructional status has been reduced from 14 days to 7 days (ADHS School Dashboard is updated weekly vs 2 weeks).

ADE will issue a detailed assurance document for the schools by 3/15/2021



Mitigation Strategies

- Schools providing in-person instruction should prioritize the following key mitigation strategies:
 - Universal and correct use of masks is required
 - Physical distancing of 6 feet or more, to the greatest extent possible
 - Handwashing and respiratory etiquette
 - Cleaning and maintaining health facilities
 - Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine



Phased Mitigation and Learning Modes

- In-person instruction (full or hybrid) mitigation strategies:
 - In-person learning for elementary schools is likely to have less risk of in-school transmission than for middle schools and high schools.
 - Families of students who are at increased risk of severe illness or who live with people at high risk should be given the option of virtual instruction regardless of the mode of learning offered.
 - In-person instruction should be prioritized over extracurricular activities including sports and school events, to minimize risk of transmission in schools and protect in-person learning.
 - Schools are encouraged to use cohorting or podding of students to facilitate testing and contact tracing, and to minimize transmission across cohorts.
 - Students, teachers, and staff who are at high risk of severe illness or who live with people at high risk should be provided virtual options.



Additional Resources

Links

[ADE Executive Order 2021-04: Frequently Asked Questions](#)

[ADHS School Dashboard](#)

[Executive Order 2021-04](#)



Questions?



Cochise Health & Social Services
Public Programs...Personal Service
www.cochise.az.gov

Dr. Alicia Thompson, DrPH, MSW,
Health Director

Closing Comments

Ginger A. Dixon, MS, LPN

Epidemiologist

Cochise Health and Social Services

1415 Melody Lane, Bldg. A

Bisbee, AZ 85603

520-329-3395 Cell Phone

Martha Montaña, MPH, R.S

Epidemiologist

Cochise Health & Social Services

1415 Melody Lane, Bldg. A

Bisbee, AZ 85603

520-255-2724 phone

520-432-9480 fax

mmontano@cochise.az.gov

Daniel Williamson

School Liaison Epidemiologist

Cochise Health & Social Services

1415 W. Melody Lane, Bldg. A

Bisbee, AZ 85603

520-307-5773

dwilliamson@cochise.az.gov



Cochise Health & Social Services

Public Programs...Personal Service

www.cochise.az.gov

*Dr. Alicia Thompson, DrPH, MSW,
Health Director*