

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: 3/2/2021

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 hybrid learning mode or reduced attendance	<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 cases</p>	

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.

Updated: 2/25/2021