

August 19, 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Currently, the COVID-19 Delta variant is spreading in Coconino County. This variant is twice as contagious as other strains of COVID-19, especially if a person is not vaccinated. There is also some evidence that the Delta variant may cause more severe illness, particularly in younger people.

As a community, we must all work together to slow the spread of COVID-19 during this pandemic. We appreciate your cooperation and necessary support to maintain in-person education, student development, and to limit opportunities for COVID-19 to spread.

It is our role, as local public health, to conduct case investigations and require quarantine or isolation when a person has tested positive for or is exposed to COVID-19. This is not a suggestion nor is it optional. To help contain illness, all individuals who have COVID-19, or who have been exposed to COVID-19 through contact with a COVID-19 case must stay home and away from others. Symptoms of COVID-19 can be mild, and it is possible for individuals without symptoms to spread this highly contagious virus. Isolation and quarantine authority are delegated to Coconino County Health and Human Services (CCHHS) and outlined in Arizona Revised Statutes and Arizona Administrative code (below).

ARS 36-624. Quarantine and sanitary measures to prevent contagion

When a county health department or public health services district is apprised that infectious or contagious disease exists within its jurisdiction, it shall immediately make an investigation. If the investigation discloses that the disease does exist, the county health department or public health services district may adopt quarantine and sanitary measures consistent with department rules and sections 36-788 and 36-789 to prevent the spread of the disease. The county health department or public health services district shall immediately notify the department of health services of the existence and nature of the disease and measures taken concerning it.

AAC R9-6-361. Novel Coronavirus (e.g., SARS or MERS)

A. Case control measures:

1. A diagnosing health care provider or an administrator of a health care institution, either personally or through a representative, shall isolate and institute both airborne precautions and contact precautions for a novel coronavirus case or suspect case, including a case or suspect case of severe acute respiratory syndrome or Middle East respiratory syndrome, until evaluated and determined to be noninfectious by a physician, physician assistant, or registered nurse practitioner.
2. A local health agency shall:
 - a. Upon receiving a report under R9-6-202 of a novel coronavirus case or suspect case, notify the Department within 24 hours after receiving the report and provide to the Department the information contained in the report;
 - b. In consultation with the Department, ensure that isolation and both airborne precautions and contact precautions have been instituted for a novel coronavirus case or suspect case to prevent transmission;
 - c. Conduct an epidemiologic investigation of each reported novel coronavirus case or suspect case; and
 - d. For each novel coronavirus case, submit to the Department, as specified in Table 2.4, the information required under R9-6-206(D).

B. Contact control measures:

A local health agency, in consultation with the Department, shall determine which novel coronavirus contacts will be quarantined or excluded, according to R9-6-303, to prevent transmission.

Schools are responsible for excluding students that local public health identifies as cases or close contacts that need to be in quarantine or isolation. Quarantine occurs when a student might have been exposed to the virus. Isolation occurs when a student has been infected with the virus, even if there are no symptoms.

The Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) and CCHHS follow Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines and define a close contact of a COVID-19 case as being any person “within 6 feet of a person with COVID-19 while infectious for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period, regardless of whether masks were worn.” This requires school leadership to notify parents of suspected exposures on school grounds in order for those students to adhere to the quarantine guidance as outlined below.

NON-VACCINATED K-12 Students who are named as close contacts to a COVID positive individual (and have NOT tested positive COVID-19 in the prior 3 months) should quarantine for 14 days from last day of exposure, UNLESS either of the following criteria are met:

Criteria 1 (Quarantine Ends Day 11)	Criteria 2 (Quarantine Ends Day 8)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least 10 days have passed since the exposure to COVID-19; AND Remain symptom free for that 10-day period. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least 7 days have passed since the exposure to COVID-19; AND Tests negative for COVID-19 at least five days after the date of exposure; AND Has been symptom free for that seven-day period.

K-12 Students with prior COVID-19 Infection (Within last 90 days) that are not fully vaccinated:

No quarantine required if the following criteria are met:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have a documented COVID-19 infection within the last 90 days, AND Remain symptom free

VACCINATED K-12 Students who are named as close contacts to a COVID positive individual:

No quarantine required if the following criteria are met:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are fully vaccinated**, AND Remain symptom free

2 weeks after their second dose in a 2-dose series, such as the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines, **OR 2 weeks after a single-dose vaccine, such as Johnson & Johnson’s Janssen vaccine.

CCHHS recommends that fully vaccinated close contacts be tested for COVID-19 three to five (3-5) days following their last exposure. CCHHS also strongly recommends wearing a mask indoors in public, regardless of vaccination status.

Regardless of vaccination status or prior infection, anyone who tests positive for COVID- 19 or who has symptoms consistent with COVID-19 must begin isolation. Please refer to the [ADHS Release from Isolation and Quarantine Guidance](#).

Thank you for your ongoing efforts to keep our community healthy. CCHHS will continue to work with our school communities and will keep you informed regarding precautions necessary to keep you and your families safe.

Sincerely,



Kim Musselman