

January 5, 2022

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Currently, COVID-19 continues to spread in Coconino County, including significant levels of transmission of COVID variants (Delta, Omicron, etc). To date, the variants have proven to be twice as contagious as other strains of COVID-19, especially if a person is not vaccinated. As additional variants continue to emerge, effective mitigation practices in alignment with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) recommendations are even more critical.

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. To help contain the illness, all individuals who have COVID-19, or who have been exposed to COVID-19 through contact with a COVID-19 case, should 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 is 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.

QUARANTINE & ISOLATION GUIDANCE OVERVIEW

- Schools are responsible for identifying students with COVID positive cases or who are 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.
 - ADHS and CCHHS follow 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.
- **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](#).**

QUARANTINE GUIDANCE FOR CLOSE CONTACTS

NOT FULLY VACCINATED K-12 Students who are named as close contacts to a COVID positive individual (and have NOT tested positive for COVID-19 in the prior 3 months) should quarantine for 5 days from the last day of exposure, following the below requirements:

5 Day Quarantine Requirements
• Stay home for 5 days; AND
• Wear a mask around others for an additional 5 days,***
• Remain symptom-free for the entire 10 day period <i>If you develop symptoms, get a test and stay home</i>

***The CDC has released updated guidance on what to do **if individuals are unable to mask for the five (5) additional days** following the end of isolation or quarantine:

- *If a close contact is not able to wear a mask, then it is recommended that they isolate/quarantine for ten (10) days.*

K-12 STUDENTS WITH PRIOR COVID-19 INFECTION (Within last 90 days) who are not fully vaccinated and named as close contacts to a COVID positive individual:

No quarantine required if the following criteria are met:
• Have a documented COVID-19 infection within the last 90 days, AND
• Remain symptom-free

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

No quarantine required if the following criteria are met:
• Are fully vaccinated**, AND
• Remain symptom-free <i>If you develop symptoms, get a test and stay home</i>
• Wear a mask around others for 10 days, recommend testing on day 5***

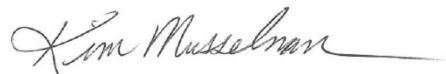
***The CDC has released updated guidance on what to do **if individuals are unable to wear a mask for the ten (10) days** following the exposure:

- *If a close contact is not able to wear a mask around others, then it is recommended that they isolate/quarantine for ten (10) days.*

** Fully vaccinated: Completion of a 2-dose series within 6 months; OR completion of a single-dose series within 2 months; OR completion of primary series AND received a booster dose.

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,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kim Musselman". The signature is written in black ink and has a long, thin horizontal line extending to the right from the end of the name.

Kim Musselman