



Yavapai County

Our Mission: "Yavapai County will serve and protect its citizens through efficient management of all its resources to enhance the lives of those we serve."



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CDC Releases Back to School Guidance

Students go back to school in about a month and there are still many questions about what COVID-19 protocols will look like. On Friday, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released new guidance on COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools. The CDC stresses students benefit from in-person learning and safely returning to in-person instruction in the fall is a priority.

During the pandemic, CDC directives have helped influence school safety decisions. They are recommending removing prevention strategies one at a time, so it can be easily monitored if virus cases increase. With vaccines only available for people ages 12 and up, a large proportion of school-age children are unprotected. Schools need to remain transparent with families, staff and the community about the process and take steps to promote vaccinations for staff and students over 12. However, they recommend masks should be worn indoors by all individuals (age 2 and older) who are not fully vaccinated, and the guidance is not a mandate.

In his recent rescinding of 25 COVID-19 pandemic-related Executive Orders, Governor Ducey stated, "Notwithstanding any other law or order, a county, city, town, school district governing board or charter school governing body may not require the use of face coverings by students or staff during school hours and on school property; and a school district or charter school may not require a student or teacher to receive a vaccine for COVID-19 or to wear a face covering to participate in in-person instruction." School administrators and boards with their back-to-school safety plans prepared are having to go back to the drawing board. Here's a link to the CDC Guidelines:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-guidance.html>

Back to School Immunizations: Yavapai County Community Health Services will offer appointments for back-to-school vaccinations for the upcoming school year in all three locations – Prescott Valley Fridays; August 6, 13, and 20, Prescott Tuesday, August 10, and Thursdays August 19 and 26, and in Cottonwood on Tuesdays August 17, 24 and 31. Call 928-771-3321 to make an appointment. Parents will need to bring their children's shot records and check with their doctor to make sure the records are up to date. To learn more about immunization requirements in Arizona, see this link: <https://education.azgovernor.gov/edu/arizona-school-immunization-requirements>. For uninsured children, there is an administration fee of \$20 per child receiving vaccines. The administration fees can be waived under certain circumstances. YCCHS will bill for insurance. Parental consent is required to administer the shots to children under the age of 18.

Yavapai County reports 29 COVID-19 cases and 2 deaths since Friday. The county has tested 124,994 residents for COVID-19 with 19,807 positive cases and 531 deaths since the beginning of the pandemic. Yavapai Regional Medical Center reports 10 COVID-19 patients, VVMC reports 3, and the VA has one COVID-19 patient.

- **COVID-19 Information en Español:** <https://www.azdhs.gov/COVID19/es/index.php>
- **Questions & Answers About COVID-19 Vaccines | The Ad Council** (getvaccineanswers.org)