COVID-19 in Arizona

Week of November 2, 2020
Summary & Recommendations

Data Summary

- Most counties saw increases or continued elevated rates of COVID-19 in their communities.
- The percent positivity in the last week was the highest it has been since the beginning of August at 7.2%. The rate of the increase in percent positivity has lessened this week, with a 0.7% increase compared to the previous week. Percent positivity increased 1.1% from Oct. 11-18.
- While Arizona is currently experiencing an increase in the number of cases and percent positivity, the magnitude of the increase is not as great as the state experienced over the summer.
- For the month of October, the percentage of inpatient beds in use stayed at approximately 75%, with an average 8.8% of inpatient beds being used for COVID-19 patients.
- Those over 65 years of age have the highest rate of hospitalization and death. While individuals between the ages of 20-44 account for the highest number of cases, they have a much lower rate of hospitalization and risk of death.
- While the statewide metrics still meet the benchmarks for the moderate category of COVID-19 spread for business and school opening, we are seeing the rates and percent positivity increase in many counties across all regions of the state.

Recommendations

- It is very important to continue measures such as wearing masks when you are out in public places, washing your hands often with soap and water, and physically distancing at least 6 feet from others. Arizona has continued to see an increase in COVID-19 cases over the past several weeks, and these measures help stop the spread and flatten the curve.
- Following the COVID-19 mitigation strategies is critical to protect the lives of Arizonans, ensure adequate hospital capacity, and keep Arizona’s economy and schools open.
- With the mild Arizona fall and winter weather, move activities and gatherings outdoors to encourage physical distancing and reduce transmission.
- Arizonans should wear masks and physically distance if attending small household gatherings with people who do not live in the same household.
- Parents with school-age children should teach them about the importance of mask wearing and good hand hygiene. If a child is a close contact of an identified case in school, parents should keep the child home for the full 14 days from the last day of exposure.
- **It is important for Arizonans to respond if contacted by public health.** Contact tracing is a critical strategy for preventing further spread.
- All Arizonans should get the Influenza vaccine. Influenza (flu) is a contagious respiratory illness spread mostly through coughing and sneezing.
The first case of COVID-19 occurred in January 2020, and Arizona saw the first wave of cases in June and July. Arizona’s mitigation strategies implemented in June and July resulted in a **75% reduction in cases**. Strategies that are still in place are identified in red:

- Implementation of local mask requirements
- Pausing of bars, nightclubs, indoor theaters, waterparks and tubing operators
- Requiring restaurants to operate at 50% capacity and implement COVID-19 mitigation measures
- Implementation of benchmarks for schools, restaurants, and paused businesses:
  - Established occupancy limits/recommendations
  - Implemented requirements for COVID-19 mitigation strategies
COVID-19 Cases in Arizona

Five weeks ago, during the week of Sept. 27, just over 3,900 COVID-19 cases were reported in Arizona. Last week, over 8,900 cases of COVID-19 were reported.
Syndromic surveillance is one of the many tools that public health uses to monitor COVID-19. Arizona uses the National Syndromic Surveillance Program’s BioSense Platform ESSENCE tool to alert and detect visits by identifying key terms and codes within the chief complaint field (i.e., the patient’s stated reason for visit), and discharge diagnosis code field (i.e., ICD-10-CM codes).

Arizona has participated in the national system since 2014 and has coverage of participating facilities across the state. These facilities account for 90% of inpatient facilities and 87% of emergency departments statewide.

The peak percentage of CLI in the month of July matches the peak of COVID-19 cases.
The percent positivity in the last week was the highest it has been since the beginning of August at 7.2%. The rate of the increase in percent positivity has lessened this week, with a 0.8% increase compared to the previous week. Percent positivity increased 1.1% from Oct. 11-18.
COVID-19 Age Groups

The chart below shows the number of COVID-19 cases by specific age groups over the last month. The highest number of cases continues to be reported in the 25-to-44-year-age group. The most current week (Oct. 25) shows that cases are still elevated in all age groups.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Less than 20 years</th>
<th>20 - 44 years</th>
<th>45 - 54 years</th>
<th>55 - 64 years</th>
<th>Greater than 65 years</th>
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<tr>
<td>9/27/2020</td>
<td>750</td>
<td>1,668</td>
<td>505</td>
<td>447</td>
<td>523</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/4/2020</td>
<td>905</td>
<td>2,138</td>
<td>720</td>
<td>510</td>
<td>582</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/11/2020</td>
<td>1,141</td>
<td>2,694</td>
<td>866</td>
<td>683</td>
<td>703</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/18/2020</td>
<td>1,465</td>
<td>3,475</td>
<td>1,230</td>
<td>942</td>
<td>954</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/25/2020</td>
<td>1,791</td>
<td>3,772</td>
<td>1,319</td>
<td>1,018</td>
<td>1,055</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
COVID-19 Outcomes

Cases
Individuals between 20-44 years old account for nearly half of all cases, while those over 65 account for only 11%.

Hospitalizations
Individuals over the age of 65 experience the highest hospitalization rate.

Deaths
While those over 65 years of age account for only 11% of cases, they have the highest risk of death. Those under 44 years of age have the lowest risk of death.
Case Rates by County

Previous Week
Week of Oct. 25, 2020

Two Weeks Prior
Week of Oct. 11, 2020

> 100 per 100,000 population
10 - 100 per 100,000 population
< 10 per 100,000 population
COVID-like Illness by County

Previous Week
Week of Oct. 25, 2020

Two Weeks Prior
Week of Oct. 11, 2020

Legend:
- > 10%
- 5 - 10%
- < 5%
School Benchmarks by County

Data for the weeks of Oct. 4 and Oct. 11

Transmission Category | Recommended Delivery Model | Requirements
--- | --- | ---
Substantial | Virtual | Onsite Support Services must be offered to students
Moderate | Hybrid | Masks and physical distancing required; no large gatherings
Minimal | Traditional | Masks and physical distancing required
Bars, Nightclubs, Gyms, Indoor Theaters, Waterparks

Bars and nightclubs not providing dine-in services until <3% positivity

Business Benchmarks by County

Data for the weeks of Oct. 4 and Oct. 11

Transmission Category

Substantial
- Restaurants providing dine-in services at 50% occupancy
- Bars, Nightclubs, Gyms, Indoor Theaters, Waterparks

Moderate
- Restaurants/bars providing dine-in services, theaters, and waterparks at 50%; gyms at 25%

Minimal
- Gyms at 50%; otherwise, same as moderate until <3% positivity, then bars/nightclubs at 50%
- Bars/nightclubs not providing dine in services until <3% positivity

Open

Paused
For the weeks Oct. 4 and Oct. 11, four counties have at least one of their metrics in the substantial category.

The benchmarks were set to establish thresholds for responding to increasing or decreasing COVID-19 transmission and its impacts on Arizona’s healthcare system. When all three metrics meet the higher threshold, counties will move into the higher transmission category.

Counties’ colors go from light to dark as their risk of moving to substantial transmission category increases.
For the weeks Oct. 4 and Oct. 11, four counties have at least one of their metrics in the substantial category.

Looking ahead at the benchmarks for the weeks of Oct. 18 and Oct. 25, nine counties have at least one of their metrics in the substantial category.

* Due to delays in reporting, benchmarks for the Weeks of Oct. 18 and Oct. 25 are provisional and subject to change prior to the official posting on the ADHS Business and Schools dashboards.
ADHS has implemented several requirements for those businesses that are deemed high-risk with the goal of operating safely with public health as the priority.

The goal of the business compliance work is aiding those businesses in complying with these requirements so they can remain open and protect public health.

Data as of Nov. 4, 2020
Statewide Mask Requirements

100% of Arizona has some type of mask requirement.

No Mask Requirements
ADHS COVID-19 Mitigation Requirements, including masks, at all Gyms, Restaurants, Bars, Nightclubs, Theaters, Waterparks

Local Mask Requirements

County-wide Mask Requirements
COVID-19 Data Summary

Through Nov. 4, 2020

252,768 cases

6,087 deaths

1,826,629 diagnostic tests

7.2 % positivity for the week of Oct. 25