

Assalam Alaikum Parents, Students and Community Members,

While the situation around Covid has been improving we are still not meeting the requirements that are needed to open campus up safely. We monitor the data from the CDC, Arizona Department of Health and Safety as well as the Maricopa County Health Department on a daily basis.

According to the guidelines for safely returning to in-person instruction there are two key components that need to be in place. First is the quality of the school's mitigation plan. This plan outlines the strategies that ACA will implement to reduce the spread of Covid-19 among students and staff upon reopening school buildings. The second is the level of spread occurring within the community. Both the school's mitigation plan as well as the degree of community spread are equally important in determining when it is safe to reopen a school building for in-person instruction.

The CDC defines community spread as follows:

- Minimal community spread: Evidence of isolated cases or limited community transmission, case investigations underway; no evidence of exposure in large communal setting
- Moderate Community Spread: Sustained transmission with high likelihood or confirmed exposure within communal settings and potential for rapid increase in cases
- Substantial Community Spread: Large scale, controlled community transmission, including communal settings (e.g., schools, workplaces)

The ADHS further defines community spread levels with the thresholds outlined below. These thresholds are consistent with the national standards set by the Coronavirus Task Force.

Benchmarks	Minimal	Moderate	Substantial
Cases	<10 cases/100,000	10-100 cases/100,000	>100 cases/100,000
Percent Positivity	<5%	5-10%	>10%
COVID-like Illness	<5%	5-10%	>10%

At ACA we are using the following checklist when considering to reopen school buildings per the ADHS guidelines. According to the ADHS schools should start preparing for virtual learning when one or more of the benchmarks are in the **substantial** spread category.

Initial Reopening Checklist

- Reopening buildings for on site services or in-person instruction is consistent with applicable state and local orders
- Consulted the local health department to confirm all three benchmarks are within the **minimal** or **moderate** spread category for two weeks. LEAs and local health departments may use additional considerations for initial reopening as outlined above.
 - Cases: <100 cases/100,000 or a two week decline in number of cases
 - Percent Positivity: <7%
 - COVID Like Illness: <10%
- The adopted mitigation plan includes strategies for traditional, hybrid, virtual, and intermittent models
- The adopted mitigation plan has been posted on the LEA's website

The ADHS recommends county-specific public health benchmarks fall within the moderate or minimal spread category in all three benchmarks for two weeks in order to provide Hybrid learning (some students in physical buildings and some students distance learning). Based on the current data on the Maricopa County's School Dashboard the overall risk level is substantial and the recommended learning scenario is virtual with onsite support.

Most Recent Data [1]

Cases Per 100k People	86.16
Percent Positivity	9.64%
Covid-Like Illness	3.00%

Prior Week's Data [2]

Cases Per 100k People	113.37
Percent Positivity	12.38%
Covid-Like Illness	4.00%

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