



November 9, 2021

# Superintendent's Report





# Around the Schools



Donaldson School Elementary students each received a pair of New Balance shoes last week. The National Shoe Retailers Association kicked off their annual conference by partnering with Soles4Souls and New Balance to provide all 231 Donaldson students with new shoes and socks. Volunteers from the retailer association helped each child find the right fit. New Balance donated 500 pairs of socks and sneakers, and the surplus is headed to the Amphi Foundation for distribution.





# Around the Schools



Amphi Middle School was the site of a community event called the “Growing Healthy Futures Fair” that featured the debut of their new “Pirate Patch” garden and the beginning of a new mural by Tucson artist Joe Pagac. The event also featured a food giveaway, resource fair and COVID-19 vaccination. Special thanks to Cox for sponsoring the mural and Tank’s Green Stuff and EcoGro for putting in the garden.





# Around the Schools



Copper Creek Elementary School made their Book Fair night special by inviting local authors and artists to read to children. It was a fun night for everyone!



Congratulations to La Cima Middle School students whose academic excellence was recognized at the school's Honor Roll last week.





# Around the Schools



Nash Elementary's Hiking Club had a great week. Each member got to visit REI, where they received hiking boots, thanks to REI, Dr. Merrill (from Desert Podiatric Medical Specialists), parents and the Amphi Foundation. A few days later, the club took their very first trip to Saguaro National Park.



# Around the Schools



Canyon del Oro High School Canyon Singers Choir sang the National Anthem at the Oro Valley State of the Town event on October 28, 2021. It was a beautiful way to kick off the meeting.



At Keeling Elementary School, third-graders had some special inspiration for their writing assignment. They used caramel apples as a tool for using adjectives for descriptive writing.

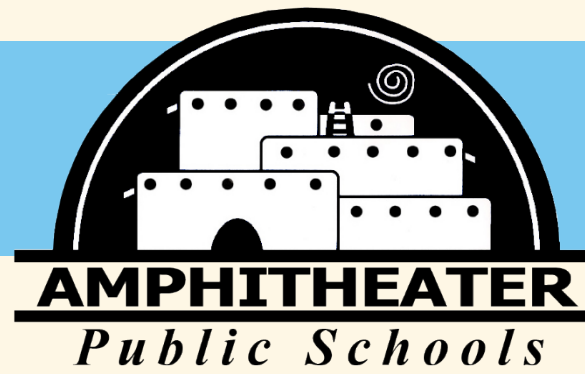




# Thank You



The staff at the Wetmore office was excited for the return of a Halloween tradition. Kindergarteners came by the busload to trick-or-treat each office in the building. Special thanks to Mesa Verde and Prince elementary schools for sharing their superheroes, princesses, historical figures and cartoon characters with the Wetmore team. It was great fun for all.



# Pandemic Data







# Pima County Metrics -- As of 11/5/21

## Disease Data

Cases over two consecutive weeks (with complete reporting of cases)

Percent Positivity

COVID-19 like illness

Criteria not met	Progress	Criteria met

## Health Care System Availability

Lab Testing Availability and Utilization

Hospital Bed Capacity

Sufficient Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for Emergency Responders

Criteria not met	Progress	Criteria met

## Public Health Tracking and Investigation

Timely case investigation

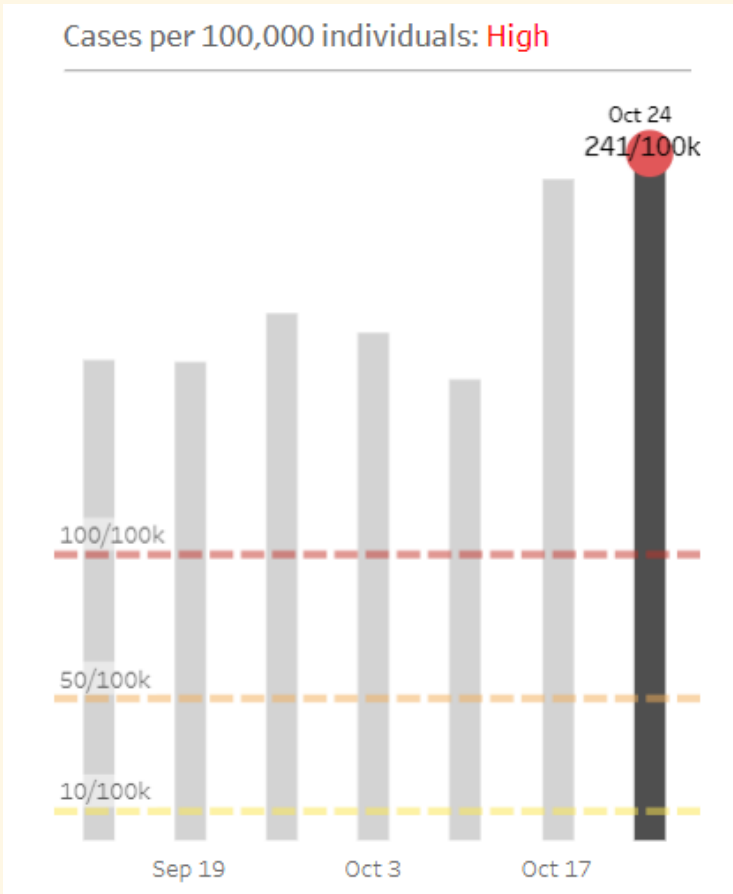
Testing of symptomatic contacts within 48 hours

Facilities/support for patients who can't be discharged home – Statewide

Criteria not met	Progress	Criteria met

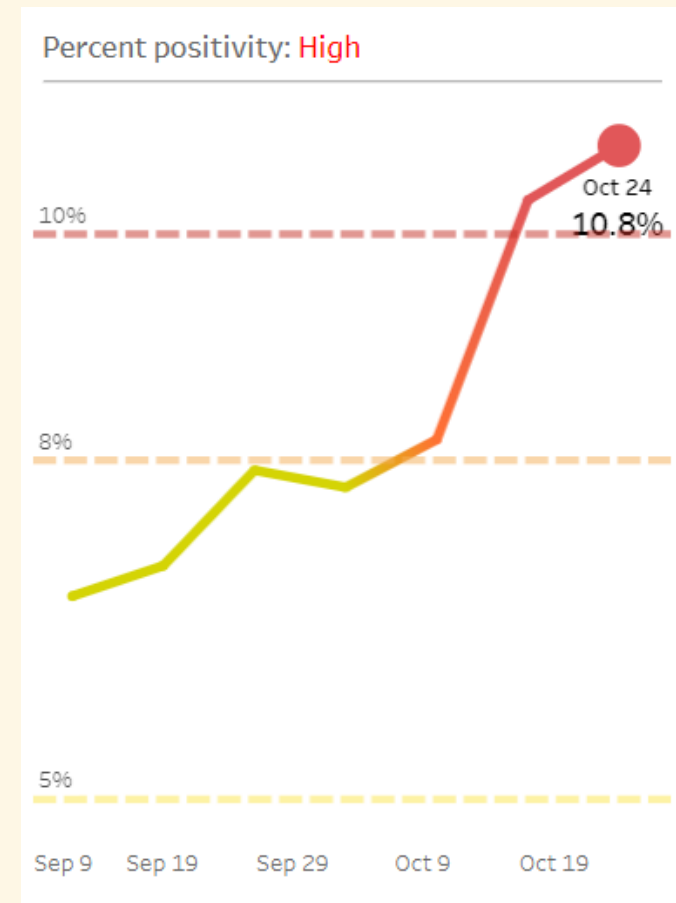


# AZDHS Data for Pima County (11/4/21)



Week of October 17: 232 cases per 100K population  
Week of October 10: 161 cases  
Week of October 3: 178 cases  
Week of September 26: 185 cases

Week of October 17: Test Positivity rate = 10.3%  
Week of October 10: 8.2%  
Week of October 3: 7.8%  
Week of September 26: 7.9%







# Current Pima County Transmission Level: High

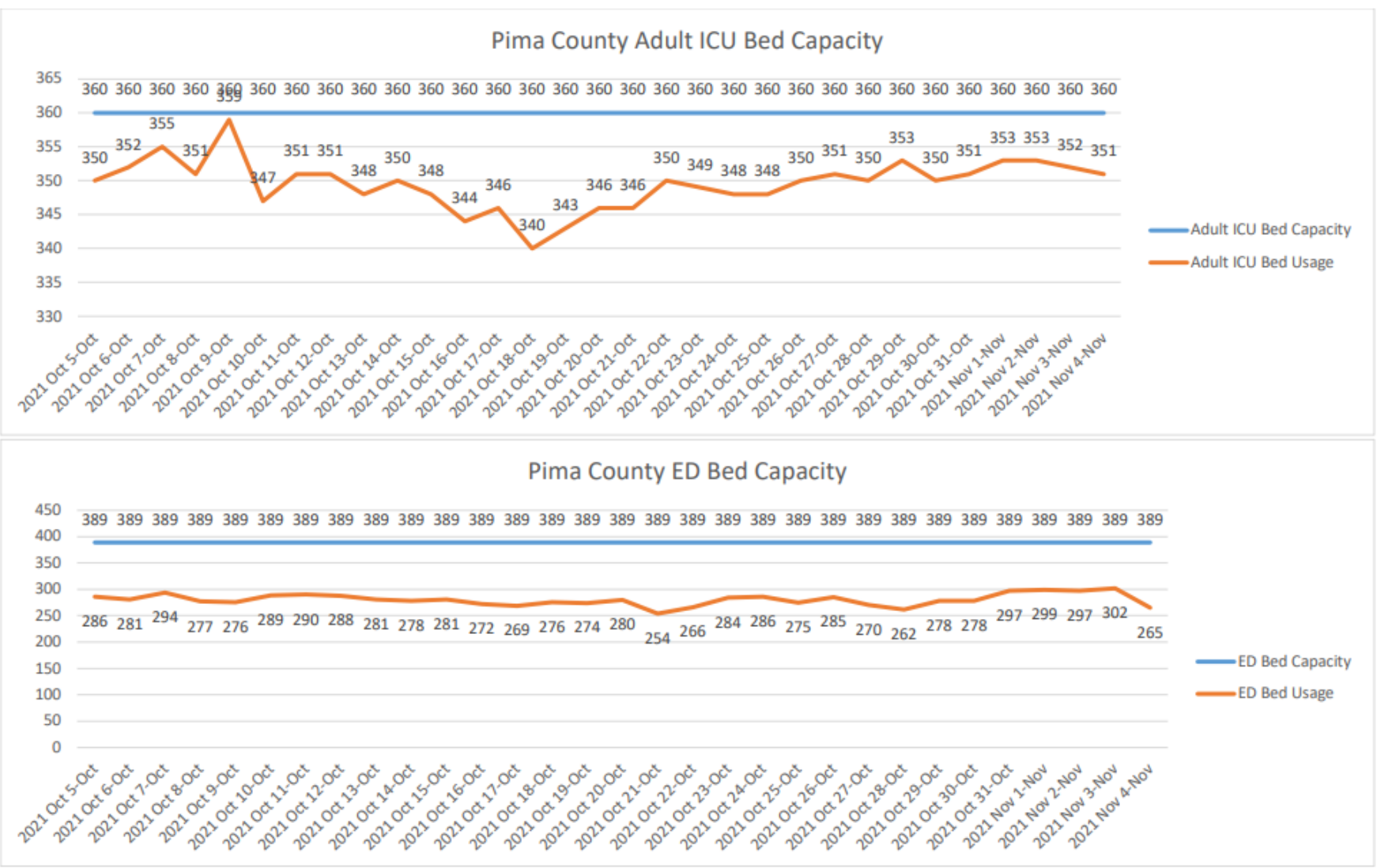
Indicator	Low Transmission	Moderate Transmission	Substantial Transmission	High Transmission
Total new cases per 100,000 persons in the last 7 days	0 – 9	10 – 49	50 – 99	≥ 100
Percentage of nucleic acid amplification tests (NAATs) that are positive during the past 7 days	<5.0%	5.0% – 7.9%	8.0% – 9.9%	≥ 10.0%



Cases per 100 K @ 241  
and % testing at 10.8%



# Health Care System Metrics







# National Trends

- Oct. 2: CDC projected infection rates of more than 218 per 100K children aged 5-11; 221 for ages 12-15; and 225 for ages 16 to 17. These rates were roughly 1/3 lower than mid-September.
- Oct. 7: “The number of new child cases remains exceptionally high.” (Am. Acad. of Pediatrics)
- Nationally, more than ½ of all students aged 16-17 have been vaccinated; about 45% for ages 12 to 15. (In AZ, 24.4% of those under 20 have been vaccinated).
- In most states, children under 18 account for less than 10 percent of cases, but this number has been higher in the West and Northeast in recent weeks, as our local numbers reflect.



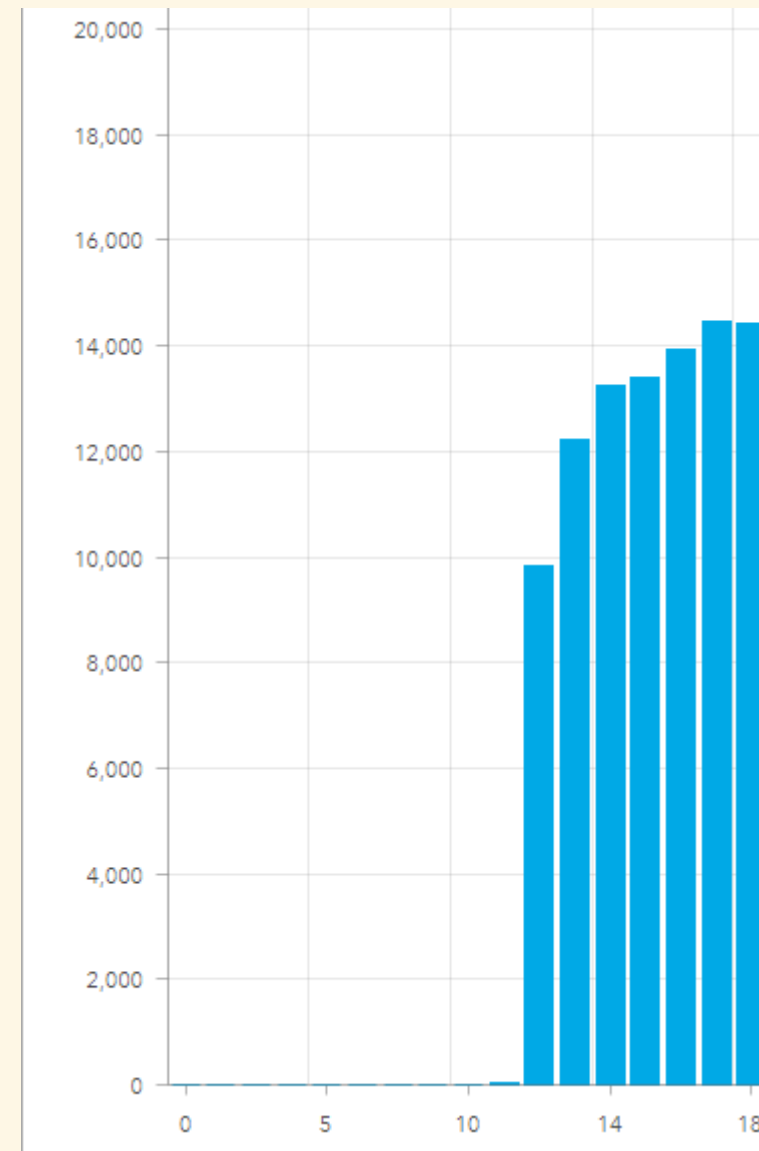
# Local (PCHD) Data

- 6.67% of Pima County COVID-19 cases were ages 0 to 11 yrs. to date. (1.33% of hospitalizations; 0.0% deaths for same age group).
- 11.32% of Pima County COVID-19 cases were ages 12 to 19 yrs. to date. (2.07% of hospitalizations; 0.0% deaths for same age group).
- Amphitheater has second highest number of reported cases among P.C. districts.





# Local (PCHD) Vaccine Numbers by Age





# Percentage of total population vaccinated by school district boundaries

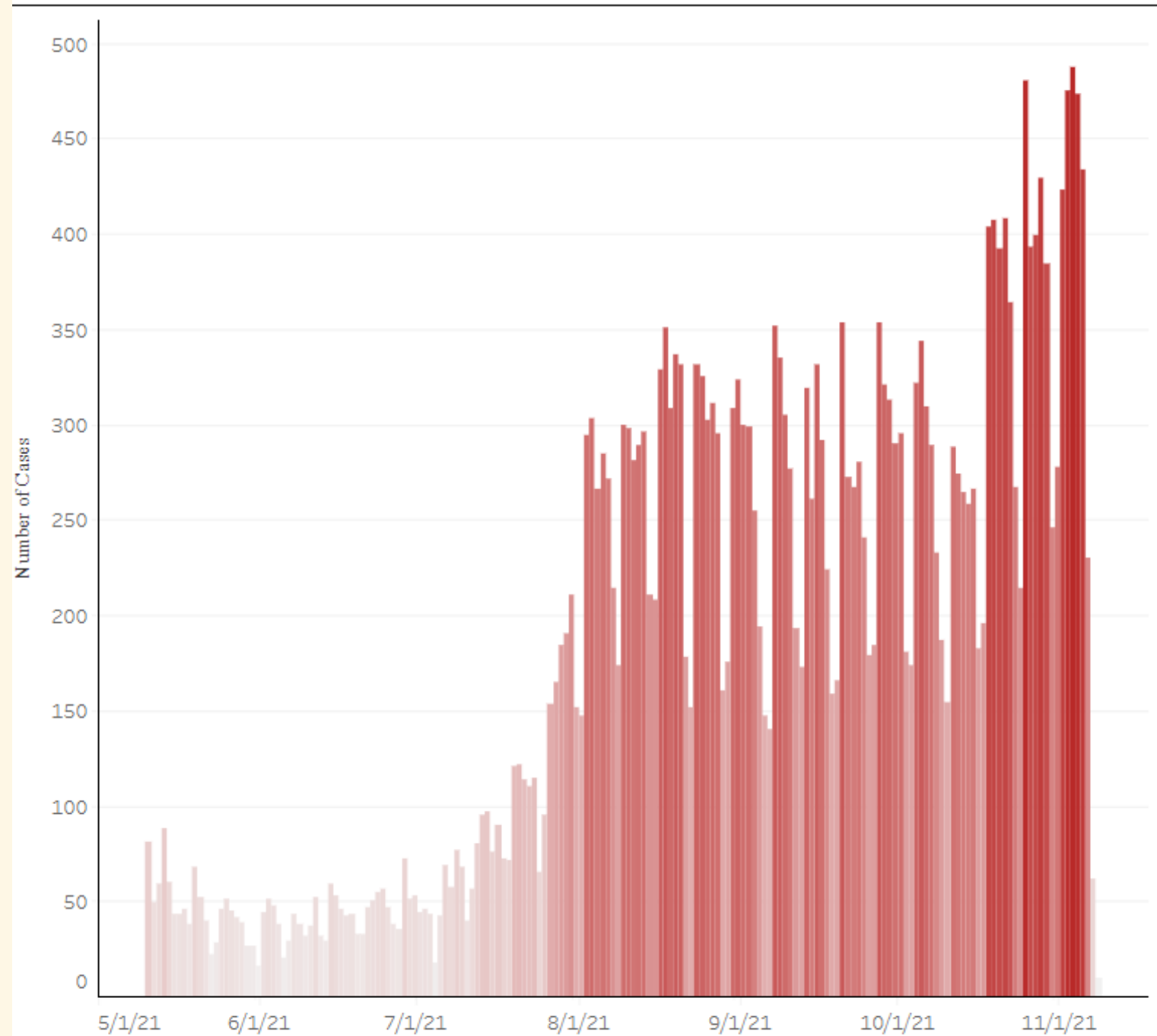


School District List	
(Ranked by Highest % Completed Vacc for 18+)	
(Click to Select/Unselect)	
CONTINENTAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT - 84.45 %	
CATALINA FOOTHILLS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT - 81.65 %	
AJO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT - 73.74 %	
AMPHITHEATER UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT - 67.52 %	
TANQUE VERDE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT - 67.45 %	
MARANA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT - 65.01 %	
TUCSON UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT - 64.17 %	
SAHUARITA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT - 63.29 %	
VAIL UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT - 62.04 %	
SUNNYSIDE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT - 56.55 %	
FLOWING WELLS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT - 54.76 %	





# Cases on the Rise in Pima County



\*Illnesses in the last 4-7 days may not be reported yet



# School Cases – Pima County

## School Cases

As reported since July 20, 2021.  
Updated Tuesdays & Thursdays.

Total cases: 2,163

Outbreaks: 71

Last updated: 9/21/21, 11:40 a.m.

District/category	Cases
<a href="#">Amphitheater</a>	237
<a href="#">Catalina Foothills</a>	41
<a href="#">Continental</a>	<10
<a href="#">Flowing Wells</a>	68
<a href="#">Marana</a>	297
<a href="#">Sahuarita</a>	103
<a href="#">Sunnyside</a>	189
<a href="#">Tanque Verde</a>	27
<a href="#">Tucson Unified</a>	484
<a href="#">Vail</a>	310
Other	400

## School Cases

As reported since July 20, 2021.  
Updated Tuesdays & Thursdays.

Total cases: 2,455

Outbreaks: 81

Last updated: 9/28/21, 10:15 a.m.

District/category	Cases
<a href="#">Amphitheater</a>	265
<a href="#">Catalina Foothills</a>	46
<a href="#">Continental</a>	13
<a href="#">Flowing Wells</a>	79
<a href="#">Marana</a>	310
<a href="#">Sahuarita</a>	112
<a href="#">Sunnyside</a>	208
<a href="#">Tanque Verde</a>	27
<a href="#">Tucson Unified</a>	592
<a href="#">Vail</a>	346
Other	457

## School Cases

As reported since July 20, 2021.  
Updated Tuesdays & Thursdays.

Total cases: 2,755

Outbreaks: 92

Last updated: 10/5/21, 12:25 p.m.

District/category	Cases
<a href="#">Amphitheater</a>	298
<a href="#">Catalina Foothills</a>	46
<a href="#">Continental</a>	13
<a href="#">Flowing Wells</a>	104
<a href="#">Marana</a>	334
<a href="#">Sahuarita</a>	117
<a href="#">Sunnyside</a>	251
<a href="#">Tanque Verde</a>	35
<a href="#">Tucson Unified</a>	668
<a href="#">Vail</a>	364
Other	525

## School Cases

As reported since July 20, 2021.  
Updated on Thursdays.

Total cases: 3,290

Outbreaks: 95

Updated: 10/22/21, 11:05 a.m.

District/category	Cases
<a href="#">Amphitheater</a>	387
<a href="#">Catalina Foothills</a>	60
<a href="#">Continental</a>	16
<a href="#">Flowing Wells</a>	142
<a href="#">Marana</a>	368
<a href="#">Sahuarita</a>	168
<a href="#">Sunnyside</a>	291
<a href="#">Tanque Verde</a>	42
<a href="#">Tucson Unified</a>	780
<a href="#">Vail</a>	381
Other	655

## School Cases

As reported since July 20, 2021.  
Updated on Thursdays.

Total cases: 4,251

Outbreaks: 126

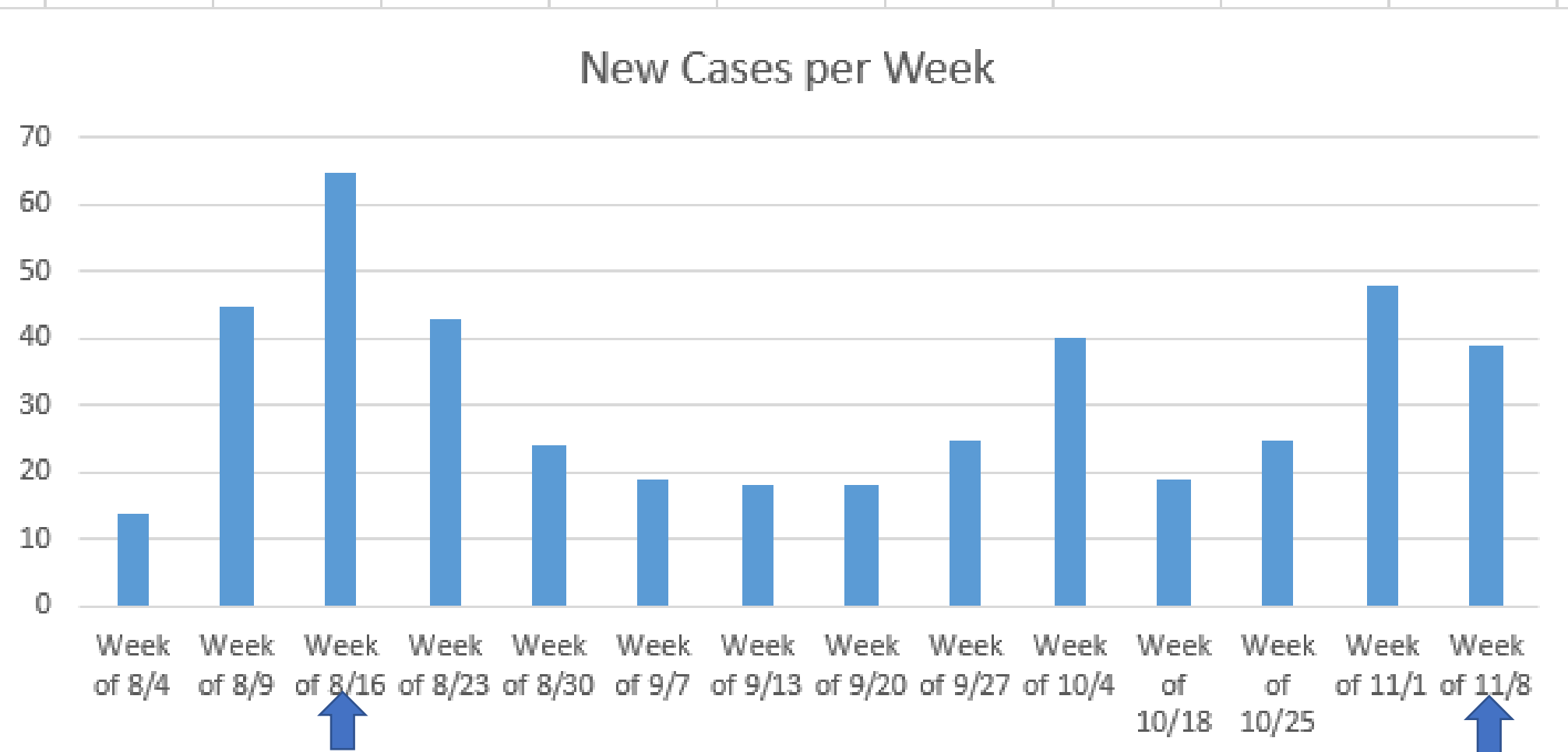
Updated: 11/04/21, 1:20 p.m.

District/category	Cases
<a href="#">Amphitheater</a>	494
<a href="#">Catalina Foothills</a>	78
<a href="#">Continental</a>	30
<a href="#">Flowing Wells</a>	184
<a href="#">Marana</a>	434
<a href="#">Sahuarita</a>	245
<a href="#">Sunnyside</a>	402
<a href="#">Tanque Verde</a>	74
<a href="#">Tucson Unified</a>	1042
<a href="#">Vail</a>	472
Other	796

[Pima County COVID-19  
Data and Reports](#)



# District New Cases by Week (Current School Year)



Masking reinstated

Current week with 1.5 days of data





# District COVID Dashboard

## Employees



1,955

Approximate Number of Amphi Employees



6

Active cases in Employees

Equates to 0.31% of Employees

## Students



12,100

Approximate Number of Amphi Students



61

Active cases in Students

Equates to 0.50% of the Student Population



# District COVID-19 Dashboard

Confirmed Case Data (includes staff and students) (66 confirmed cases as of 5:00 p.m., 11/8/21):

Amphitheater High	1
Amphitheater Middle	3
Canyon del Oro High	1
Copper Creek Elementary	2
Coronado K-8	1
Cross Middle	3
Donaldson Elementary	2
Harelson Elementary	7
Innovation Academy	18
Keeling Elementary	1
La Cima Middle	4
Mesa Verde Elementary	2
Nash Elementary	1
Painted Sky Elementary	9
Prince Elementary	3
Walker Elementary	2
Wilson K-8	2
All Other District Sites	1

(Note: 97 Students Absent; 60 with reported COVID symptoms; 21% of enroll.)



# Classroom Closures

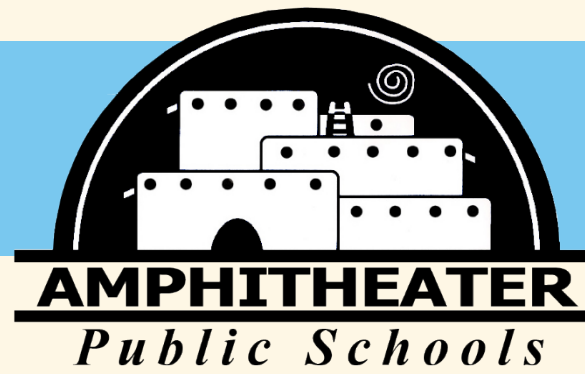
- Ordered by PCHD:
  - Innovation Academy – 4 classrooms
  - Painted Sky – 2 classrooms





# COVID-19 Vaccination Clinics

- FDA and CDC have issued emergency approval for the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine to be administered to children ages 5 to 11.
- The District itself cannot conduct vaccinations of students, however Pima County Health Department will be holding free vaccination clinics in the community -- including at some of our schools.
- Information will be released as we receive it. We currently know:
  - PCHD requires parent permission for vaccines for anyone under 18 years old. If parents are not present at clinics, signed permission forms are required and will be confirmed by phone contact with the parent.
  - Vaccination is entirely optional. State law does not currently mandate COVID-19 vaccines for anyone.
  - PCHD clinics at school sites will offer Pfizer vaccines for all eligible ages, including booster shots for those eligible.
  - All District employees are eligible to receive booster shots, and individuals are able to get a Pfizer booster even if they had a different vaccine previously.
  - Up-to-date information about PCHD clinics is on the PCHD website.
  - Vaccines remain available through other parties including pediatricians and pharmacies.



# Other Matters





# Disavowal of NSBA Officers' Letter

- On September 29, 2021, the Interim Executive Director and President of the National School Boards Association wrote President Biden, requesting “federal assistance to stop threats and acts of violence against public schoolchildren, public school board members, and other public school district officials and educators.”
- Referring to a few handfuls of incidents from across the country (mostly media reports of the same) on a wide spectrum of speech and behavior occurring in schools and school board meetings, they characterized such incidents with a broad brushstroke as “threats and acts of violence” and stated that “the classification of these heinous actions could be the equivalent to a form of domestic terrorism and hate crimes,” invoking action under the PATRIOT Act.
- While there certainly have been some scattered incidents that were alarming and have even been physical and threatening in nature, the vast majority of speech and behaviors occurring at school board meetings continue to be peaceful and well within the free-speech rights of participants. Once again, our sad national trend of overgeneralizing, stereotyping and overreacting was evidenced in this incident – this time by an organization we have trusted to embody, and advocate for, the expression of free and learned thought.
- Not surprisingly, therefore, there has been great criticism of this letter from these two NSBA officers.





# Disavowal of NSBA Officers' Letter

- Local school boards, and even state school board associations, were not consulted before this letter was sent to President.
- It seems clear that the Board of Directors for NSBA was also not involved in the issuance of this now very controversial letter, because that Board recently issued an apology for the letter to school boards across the country:

On behalf of NSBA, we regret and apologize for the letter. To be clear, the safety of school board members, other public school officials and educators, and students is our top priority, and there remains important work to be done on this issue. However, there was no justification for some of the language included in the letter. We should have had a better process in place to allow for consultation on a communication of this significance. We apologize also for the strain and stress this situation has caused you and your organizations.

As we've reiterated since the letter was sent, we deeply value not only the work of local school boards that make important contributions within our communities, but also the voices of parents, who should and must continue to be heard when it comes to decisions about their children's education, health, and safety.

We are going to do better going forward. We are engaged in a formal review of our processes and procedures. We will announce specific improvements soon to ensure there is improved coordination and consultation among our staff, our board, and our members across the country. The review will include not only the proceedings leading to the letter, but also other related concerns raised by members even before the letter was sent.



# Disavowal of NSBA Officers' Letter

- We have received some requests that we distance ourselves from this letter, and I want to make it clear tonight that I am doing just that. This letter was a gross abuse of authority by the individuals who wrote it, but I do not believe that they spoke on behalf of the organization.
- I know, to a certainty, they did not speak on behalf of this Governing Board or this Superintendent.
- That being said, a call to “cancel” NSBA at this time is misplaced. It is an organization that, typically, has advocated for local control of public education and seems to have – in this instance – lost that guiding principal, but has already evidenced it has the same back in its sights. We should insist on verification of the same in the future to be sure.
- Now is a time for all opinions to be heard and considered. But it is not a time for disrespect of one another. And, we have faced much greater periods of discord in our history than this. We have survived them, and we will survive this. But to do so with as little damage to our collective and national soul as possible, we have all (including NSBA) got to stop going after one another just because we disagree.



# Disavowal of NSBA Officers' Letter

Let us remember the sound advice offered more than 160 years ago:

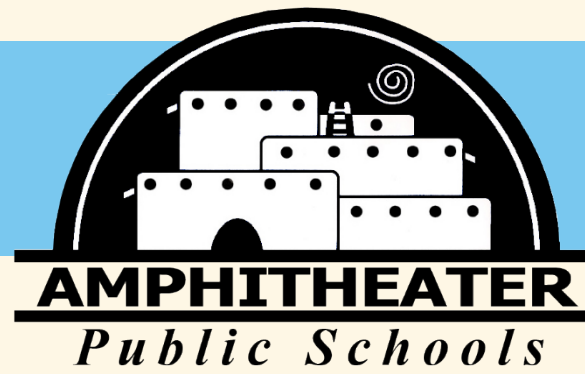
*We are not enemies, but friends.*

*We must not be enemies.*

*Though passion may have strained it must not break our bonds of affection.  
The mystic chords of memory, stretching from every battlefield and patriot grave  
to every living heart and hearthstone all over this broad land, will yet swell the  
chorus of the Union, when again touched, as surely they will be,  
by the better angels of our nature.*

Abraham Lincoln





# Questions?

