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# COVID-19 in Arizona

Week of December 14, 2020



ARIZONA DEPARTMENT  
OF HEALTH SERVICES



# Summary & Recommendations

## Data Summary

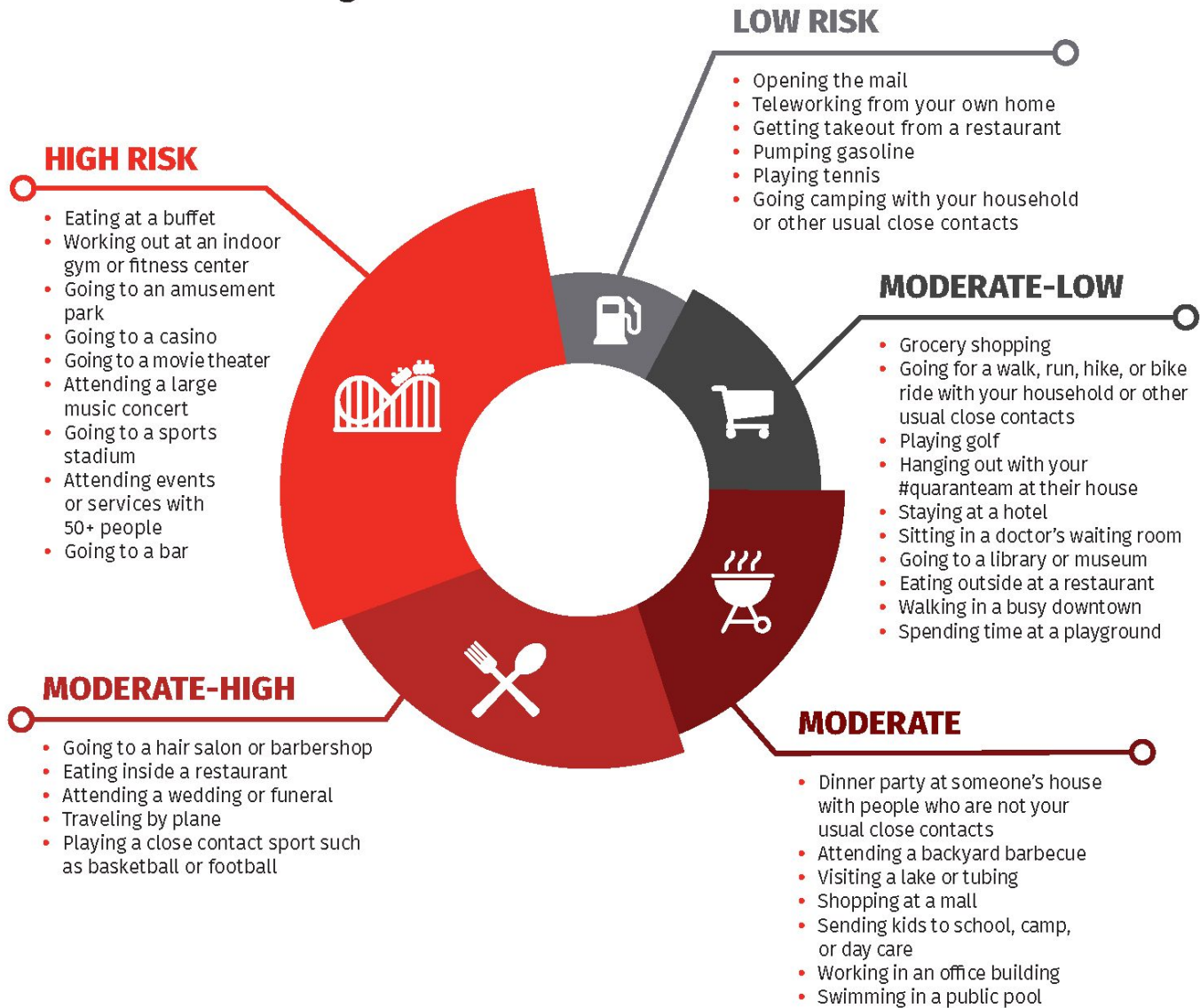
- Arizona is currently experiencing a continued increase in the number of cases and percent positivity.
- Nearly all counties saw increased rates of COVID-19 in their communities.
- Percent positivity has continued to increase (18.4% the week of Dec. 6) indicating increased community spread.
- While the statewide metrics still meet the benchmarks for the moderate category of COVID-19 spread for [business](#) and [school](#) opening, we are seeing case rates, percent positivity, and COVID-Like Illness increase across all regions of the state, with three northern counties moving into the substantial spread category.
- Last week, 8 counties had three benchmark metrics in the substantial category of COVID-19 spread and 6 counties had two benchmarks in the substantial category.
- Over the last week, the percentage of inpatient beds in use increased to approximately 91%, with the average of inpatient beds being used for COVID-19 patients increasing above 40%.
- 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.

## Recommendations

- **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. 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:
  - **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.
- When getting ready to celebrate, it is important to acknowledge the risk of holiday gatherings during this time and help slow the spread of COVID-19. **The safest way to celebrate this winter is at home with the people you live with.** Visit [azhealth.gov/winterholidays](https://azhealth.gov/winterholidays).
- With the mild Arizona winter weather throughout much of the state, **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, even if you are outside.
- Businesses should consider moving as much of their business outdoors as possible, including dining tables, gym classes, etc.
- Everyone plays a role in keeping Arizonans safe and our schools and businesses open. If an establishment is not complying with the COVID-19 mitigation strategies, please report the complaint to the ADHS COVID-19 compliance hotline at 1-844-410-2157 or online at [azhealth.gov/complianceCOVID19](https://azhealth.gov/complianceCOVID19).
- You are safer at home. Assess your risk each time you leave your home.

# COVID-19 RISK INDEX

## Know Your Risk During COVID-19



### For ALL Activities:

- Stay home when you are sick or if you think you have been exposed
- Wear a mask when feasible
- Keep at least 6 ft between yourself and non-household members
- Wash your hands frequently

### Parties Recreational Sports Receptions

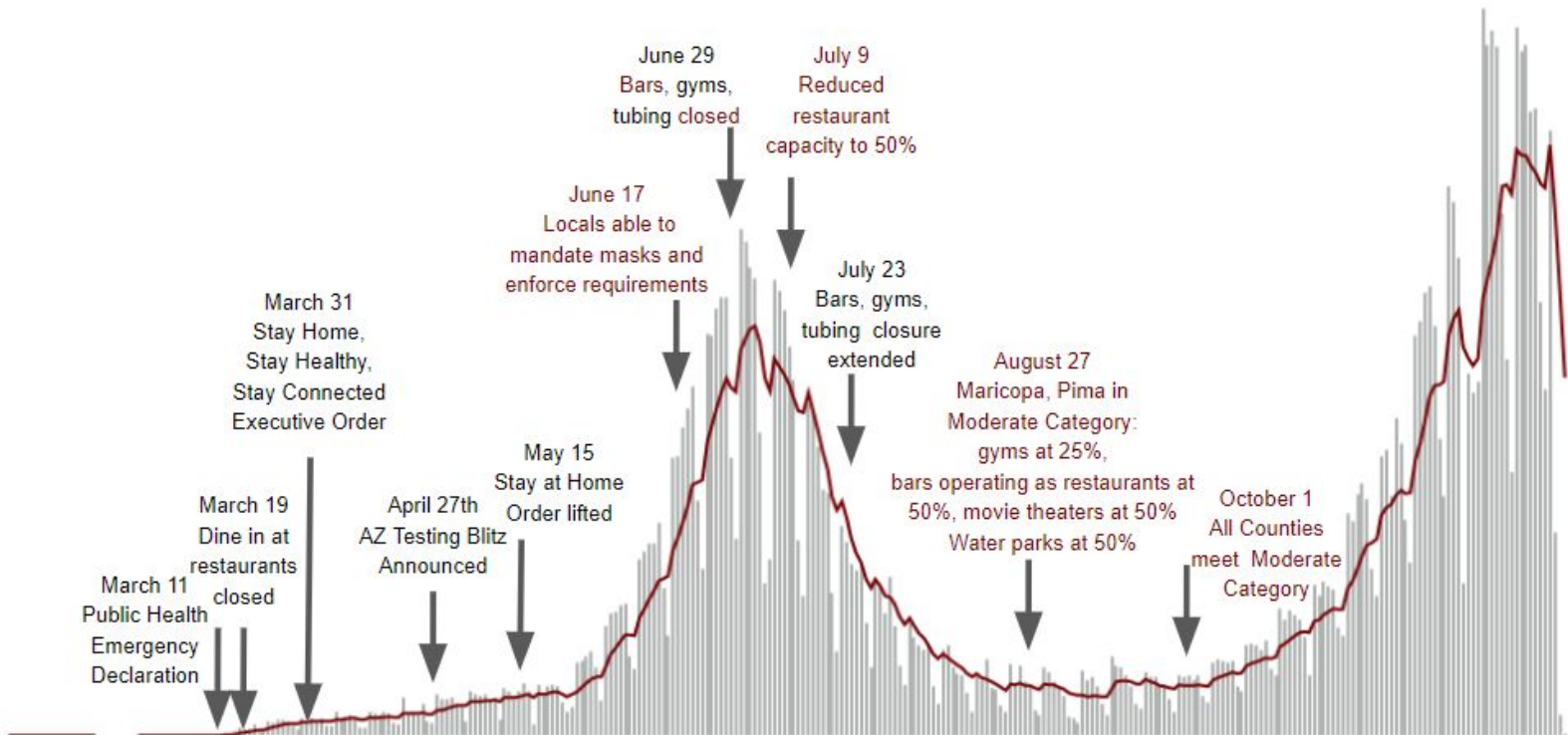
Some activities can run the entire risk spectrum. More people in a smaller space equals a higher risk.

For more information, visit: [azhealth.gov/COVID19](https://azhealth.gov/COVID19)



ARIZONA DEPARTMENT  
OF HEALTH SERVICES

# Arizona's COVID-19 Timeline

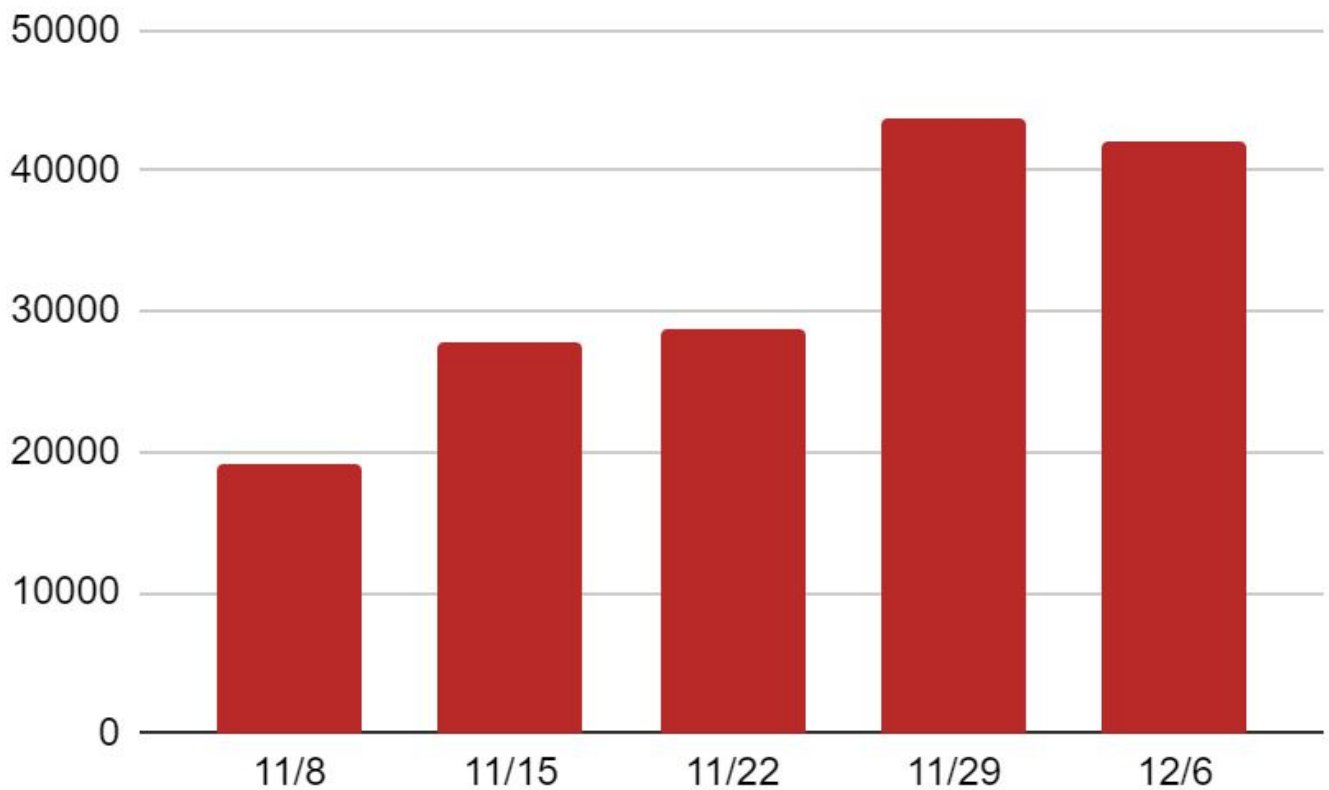


The first case occurred in January 2020, and Arizona saw the first wave of cases in June and July. Arizona's mitigation strategies implemented in June and July resulted in a **75% reduction in cases**. Strategies that are still in place are identified in red:

- **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

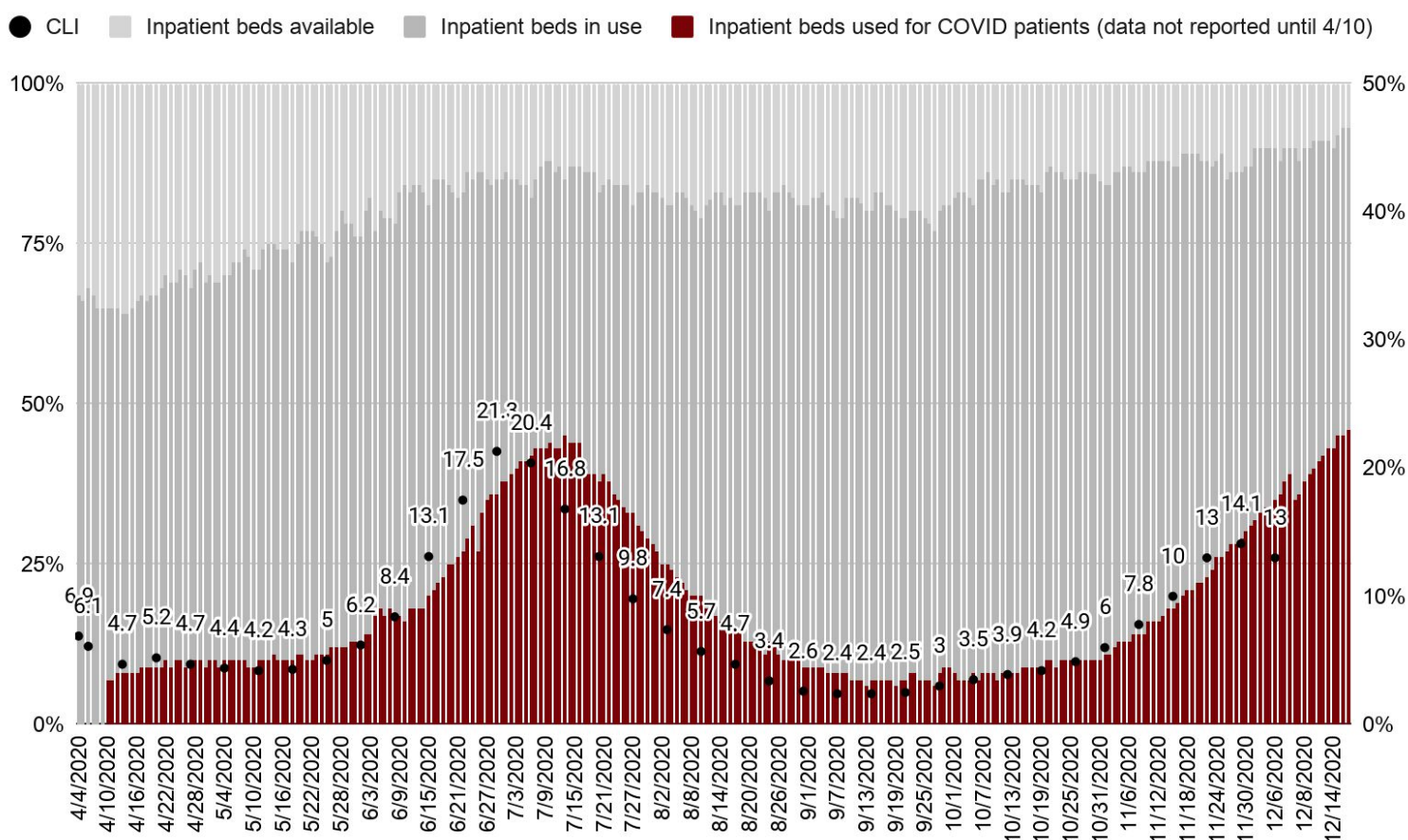
Five weeks ago, during the week of Nov. 8, over 19,000 COVID-19 cases were reported in Arizona. Last week, over 42,000 cases of COVID-19 were reported. This is a 120% increase.



# CLI (COVID-Like-Illness) & Syndromic Surveillance

Syndromic surveillance is one of the many tools that public health uses to monitor COVID-19. Arizona has participated in this 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.

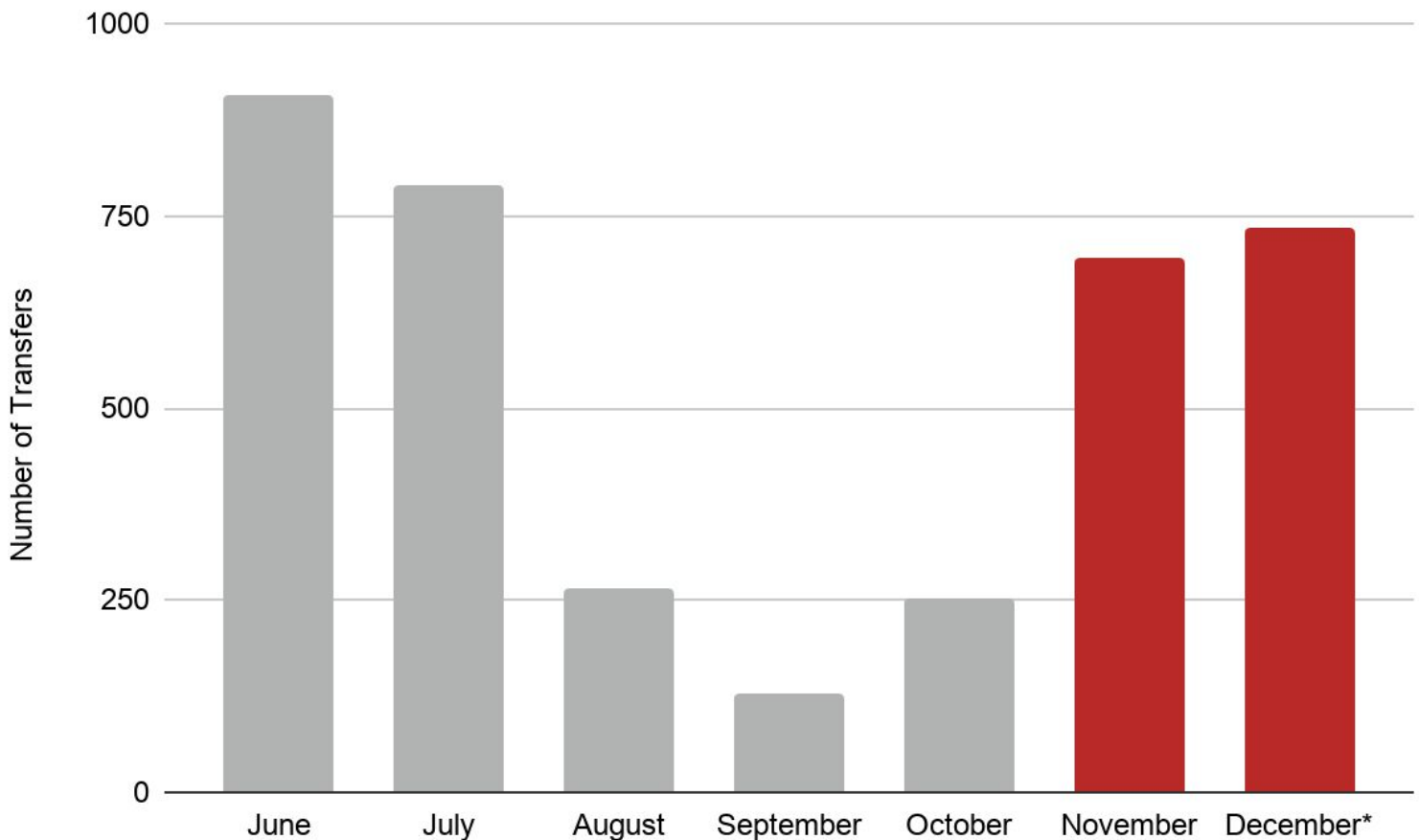
When the percent of emergency department visits and inpatient admissions due to COVID-like-illness (CLI) is overlaid on the chart of hospital self reports of inpatient bed capacity and occupancy, there is a strong correlation between these metrics. CLI appears more sensitive, identifying potential increases in COVID-19 hospital occupancy several days in advance.



# Arizona Surge Line

The Arizona Surge Line is a centralized statewide system designed to keep hospitals and regions of Arizona from being overwhelmed by facilitating COVID-19 patient admission, transfer, and discharge to appropriate levels of care.

The number of transfers is a good indicator of the impact of COVID-19 cases on the healthcare system. Over the past two months, we have seen a steady increase in the number of transfers occurring.

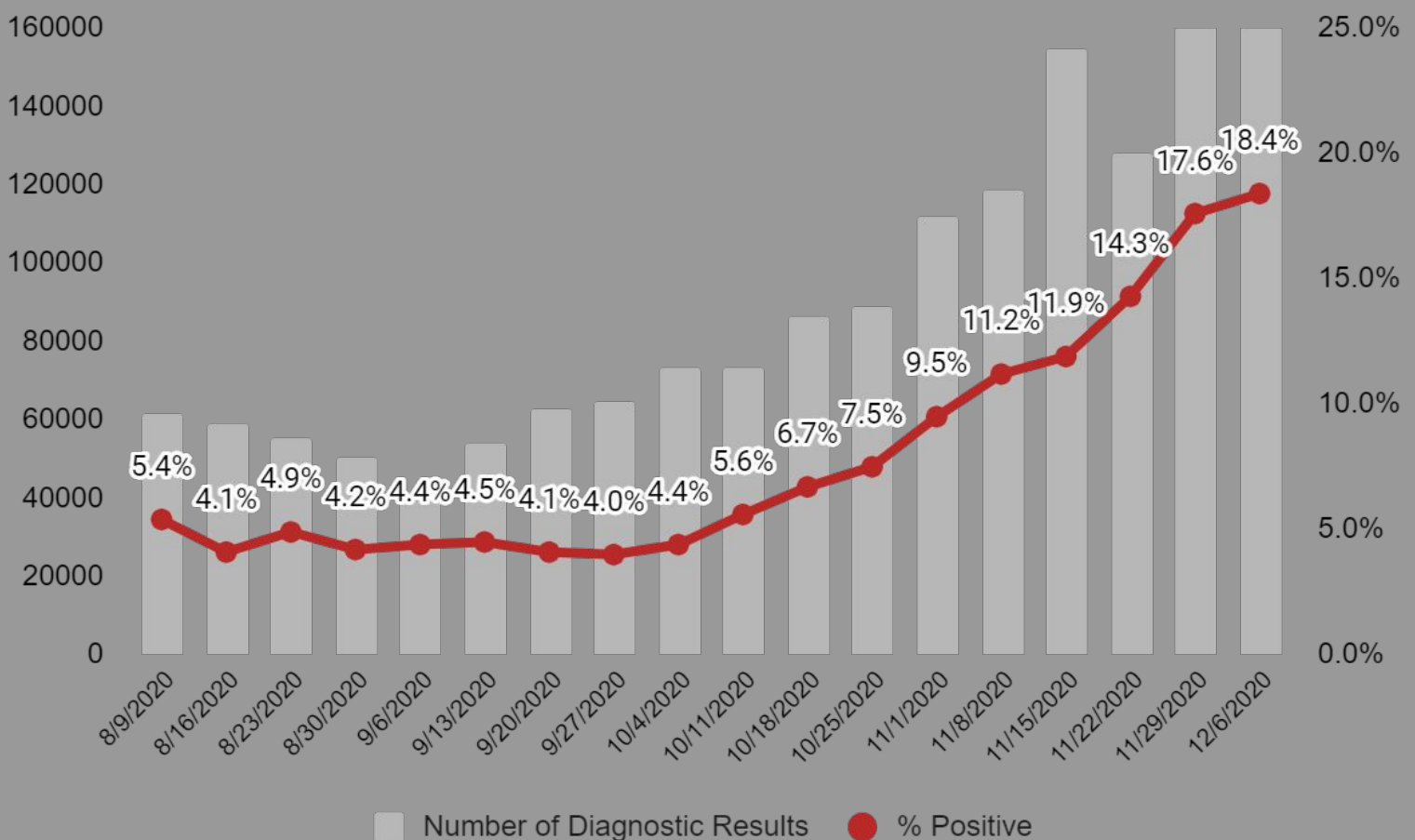


\*November data through 12/16/2020



# Diagnostic Testing & Percent Positivity

The percent positivity in the last week, 18.4%, was the highest it has been since the middle of July. The number of tests is the highest it has been since the beginning of the COVID-19 response in January.





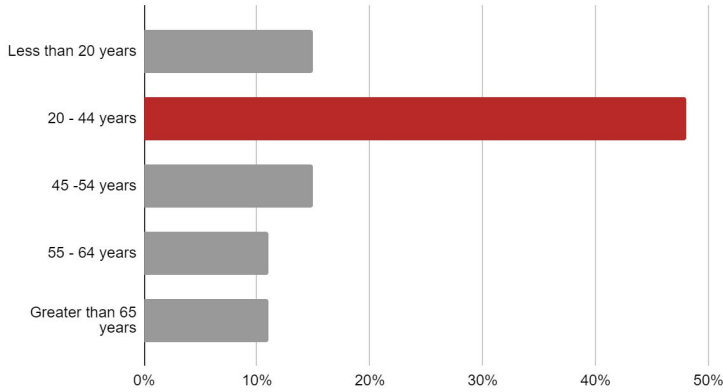
# COVID-19 Age Groups

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 20- to 44-year-old age group. The trend in the 20-44 years age group is similar to the trends seen in the beginning of June.

	Less than 20 years	20 - 44 years	45 -54 years	55 - 64 years	Greater than 65 years
11/8/2020	3,518	8,321	2,849	2,135	2,258
11/15/2020	4,915	11,829	4,137	3341	3,647
11/22/2020	4,655	12,146	4,240	3496	4,083
11/29/2020	7,422	19,014	6,428	5,226	5,618
12/6/2020	7,096	18,368	6,152	5,276	5,984

# COVID-19 Outcomes

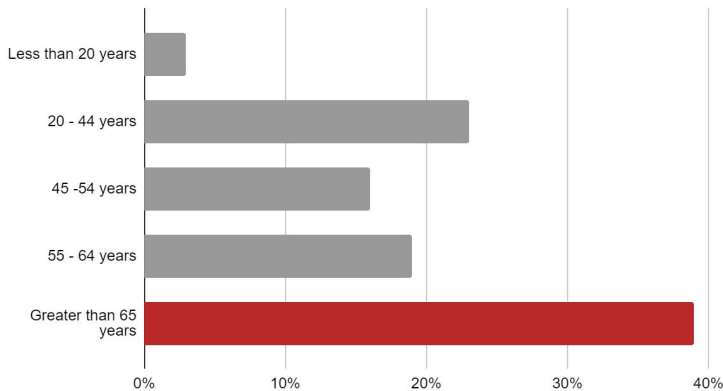
COVID-19 Cases



## Cases

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

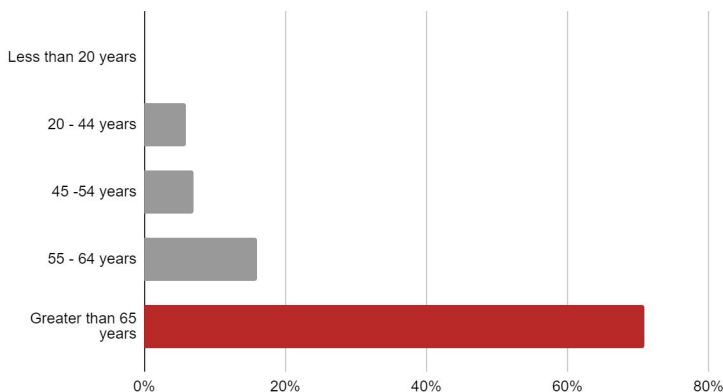
COVID-19 Hospitalizations



## Hospitalizations

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

COVID-19 Deaths



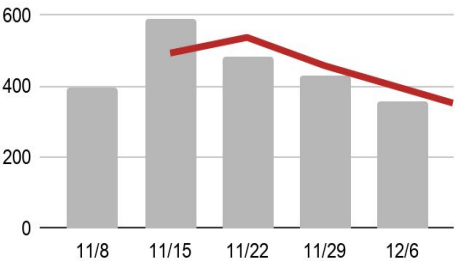
## Deaths

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.

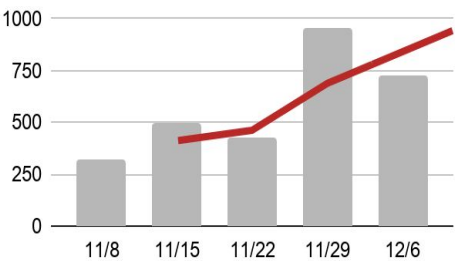
# COVID-19 Cases by County



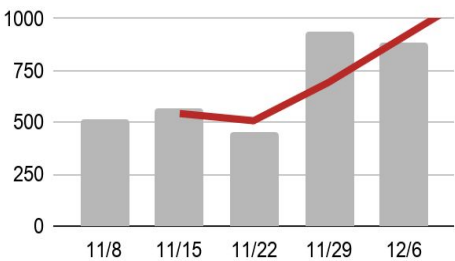
Apache



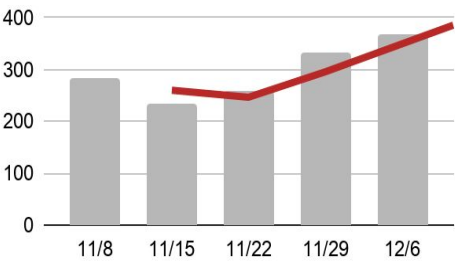
Cochise



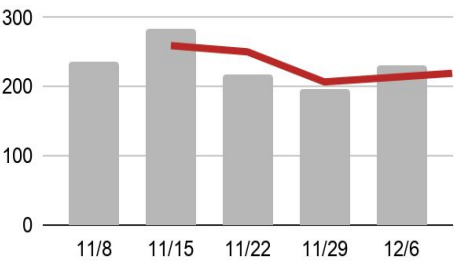
Coconino



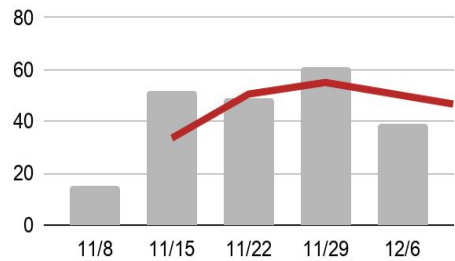
Gila



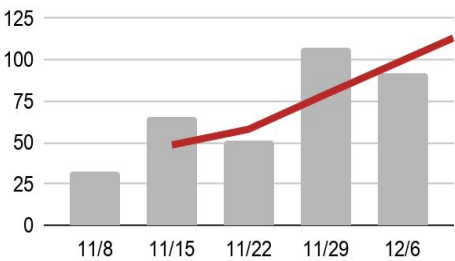
Graham



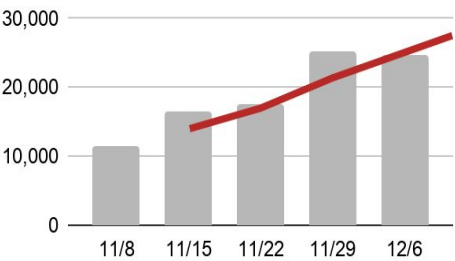
Greenlee



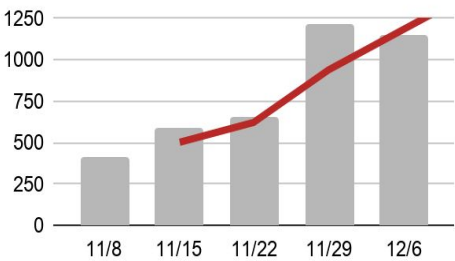
La Paz



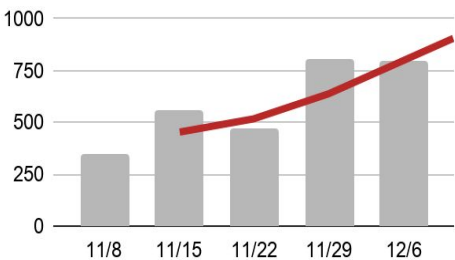
Maricopa



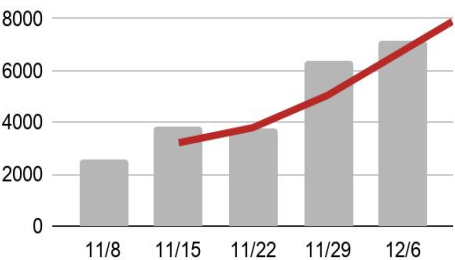
Mohave



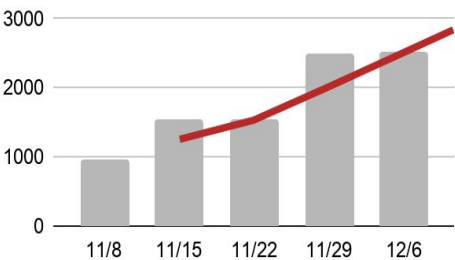
Navajo



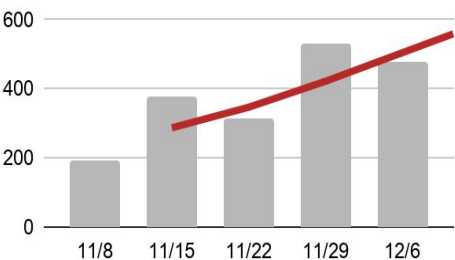
Pima



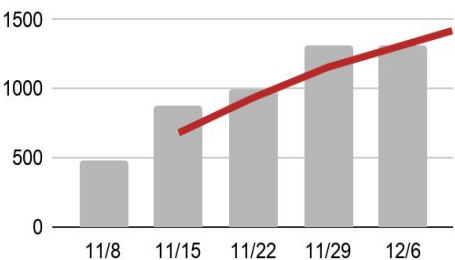
Pinal



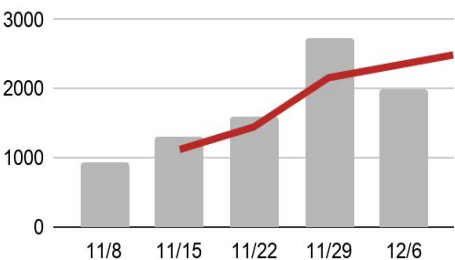
Santa Cruz



Yavapai

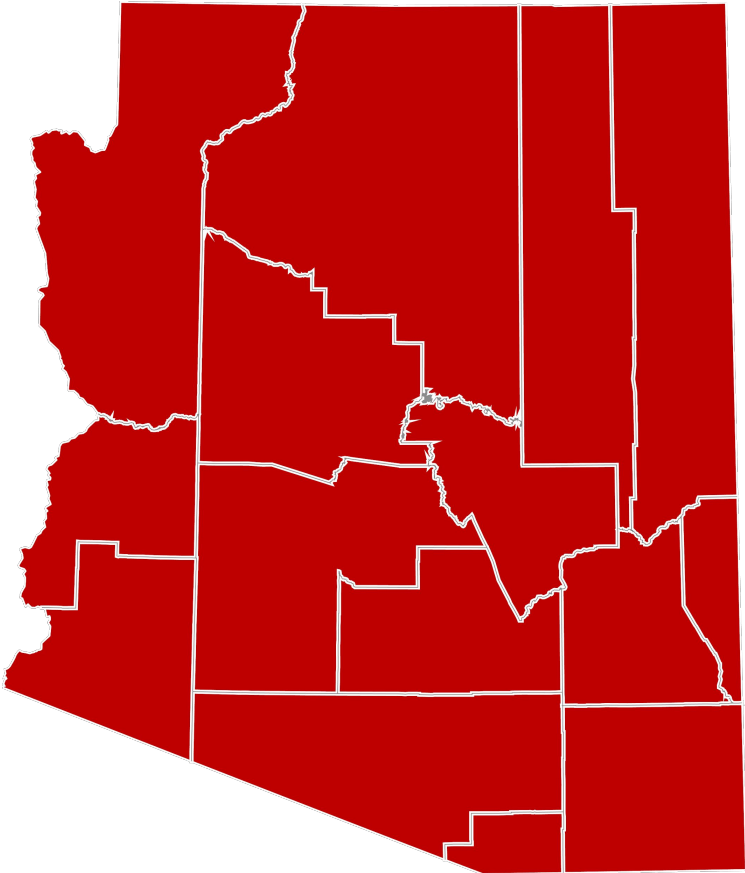


Yuma

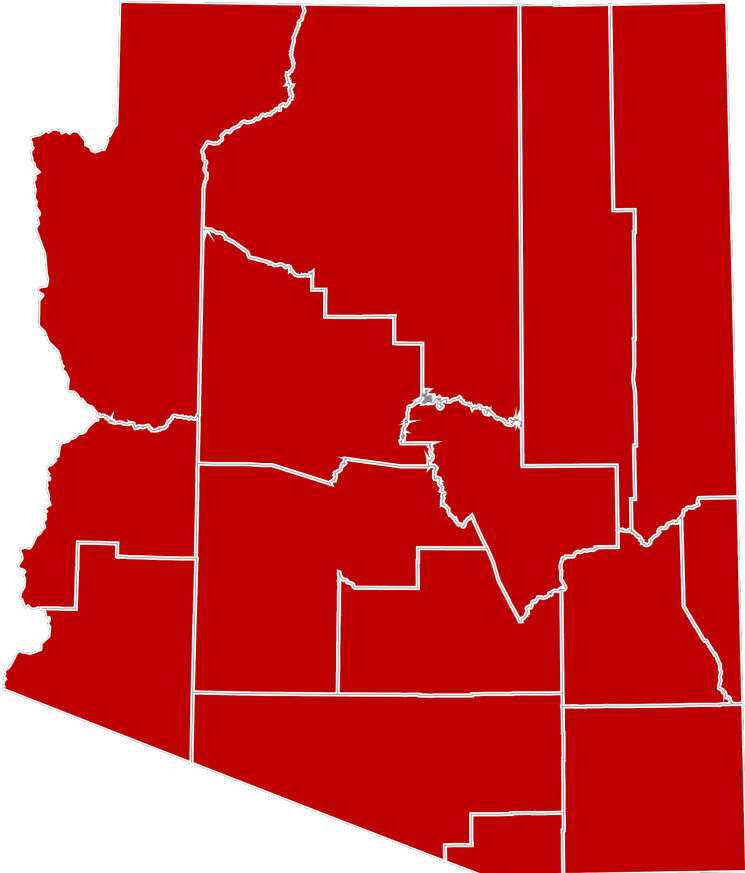


# Case Rates by County

**Previous Week**  
Week of Nov. 29 , 2020



**Two Weeks Prior**  
Week of Nov. 15, 2020



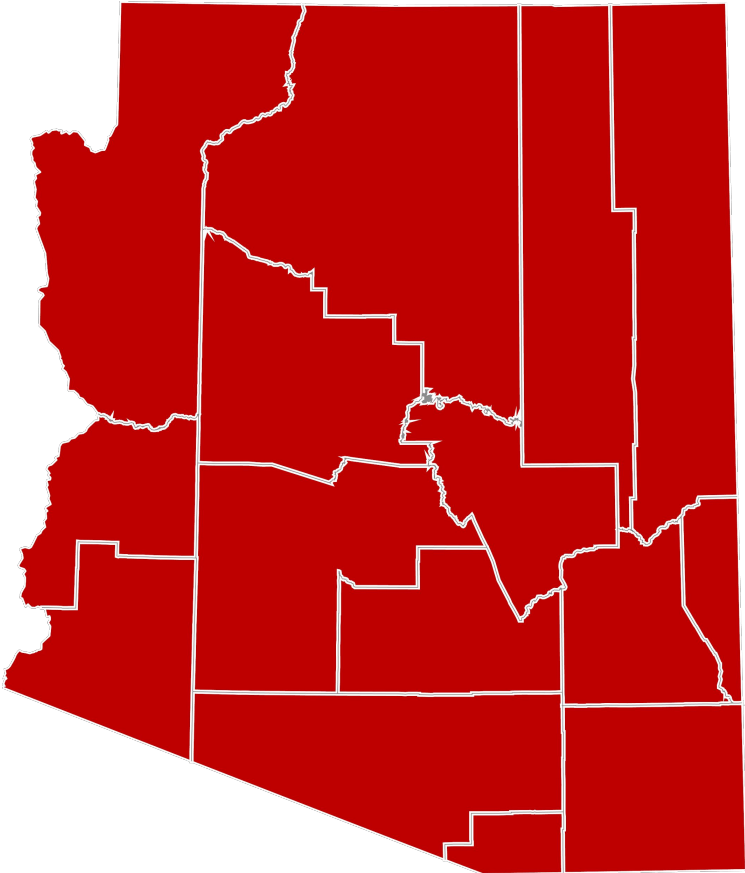
> 100 per 100,000 population

10 - 100 per 100,000 population

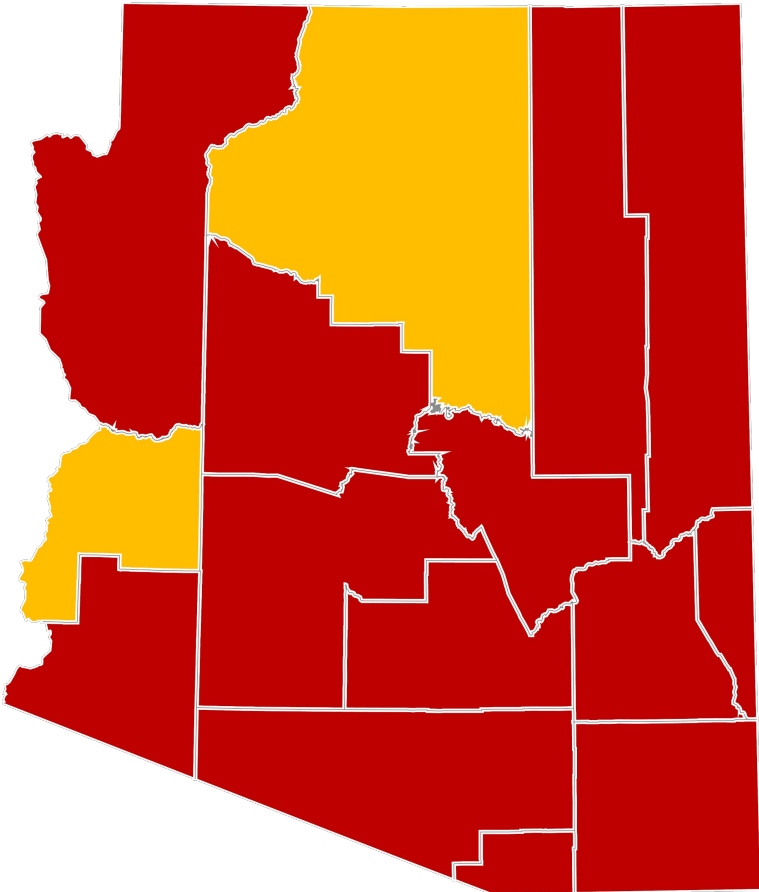
< 10 per 100,000 population

# Percent Positivity by County

**Previous Week**  
Week of Nov. 29 , 2020



**Two Weeks Prior**  
Week of Nov. 15, 2020



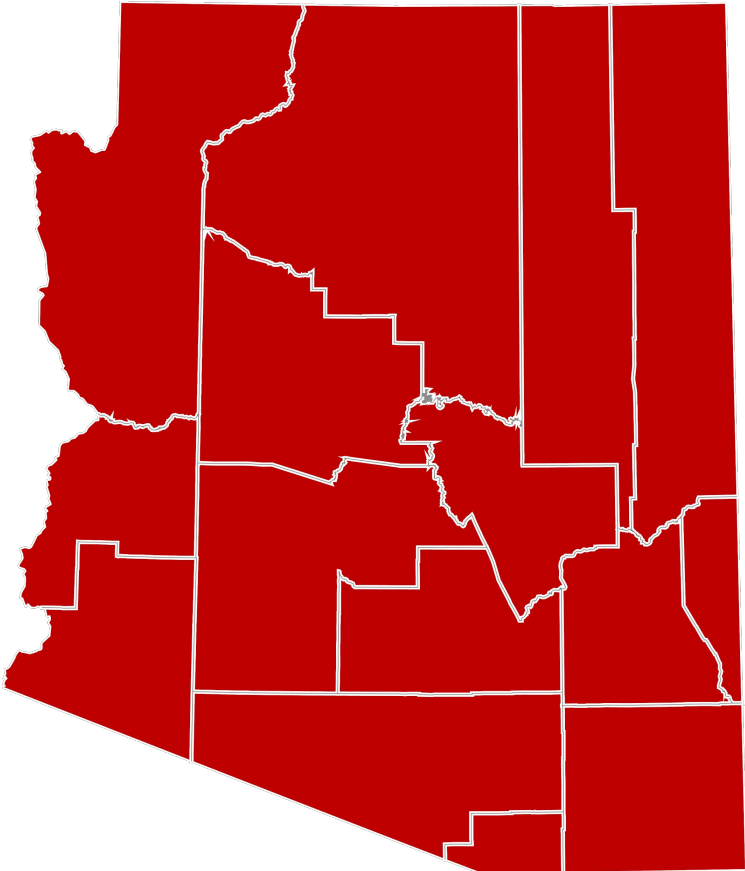
> 10 %

5 - 10 %

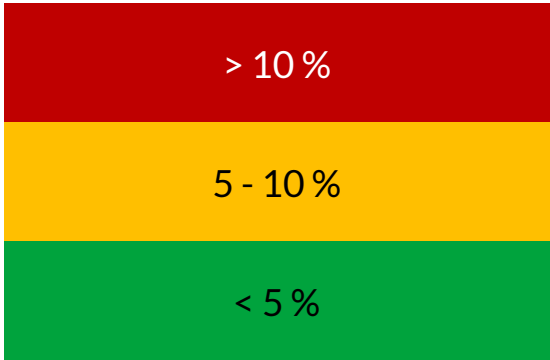
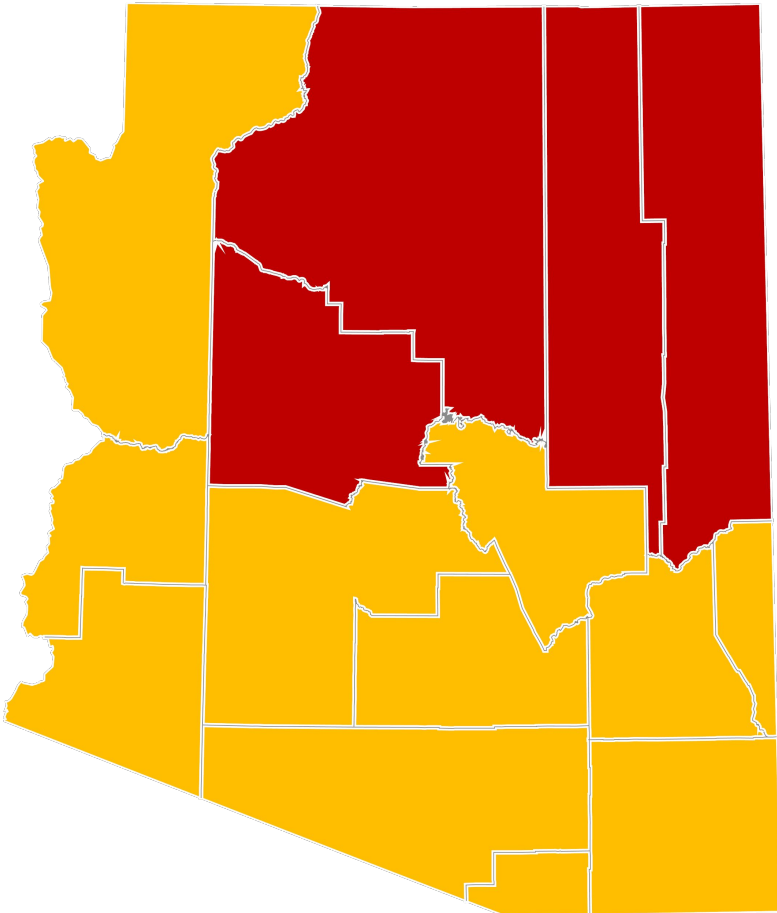
< 5 %

# COVID-like Illness by County

**Previous Week**  
Week of Nov. 29 , 2020

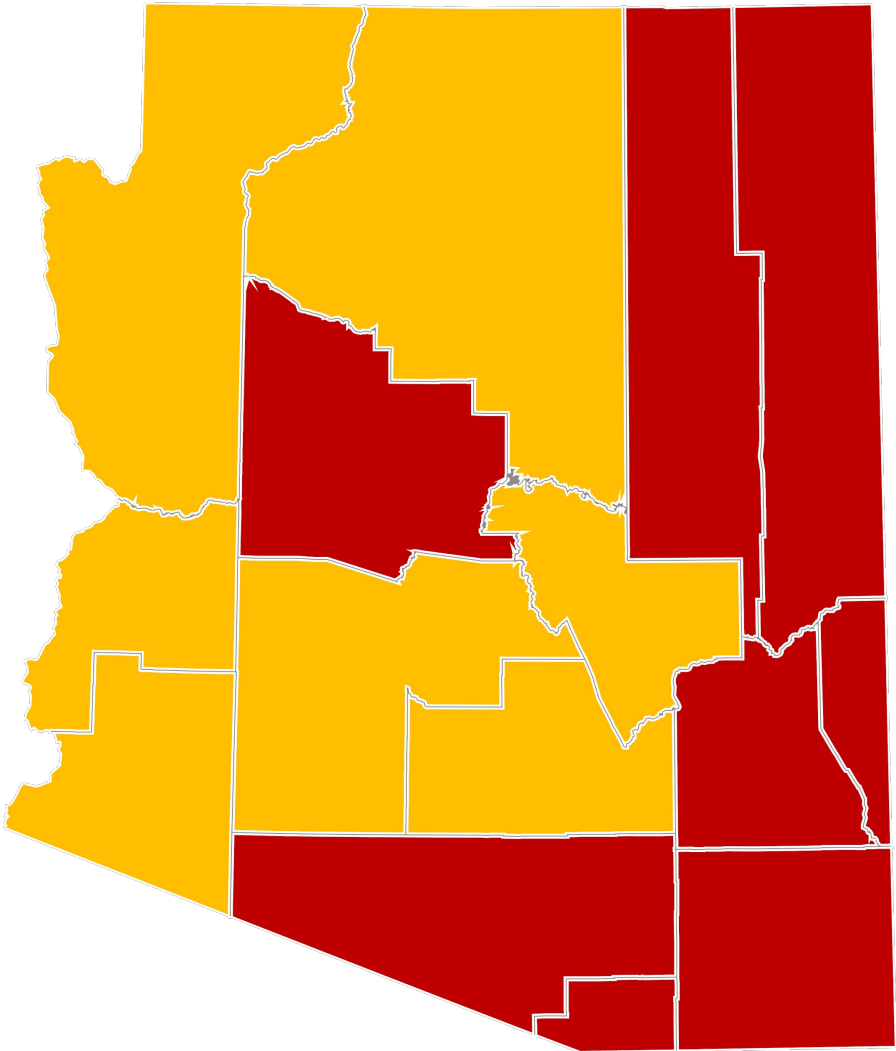


**Two Weeks Prior**  
Week of Nov. 15, 2020



# School Benchmarks by County

Data for the weeks of Nov. 22 and Nov. 29

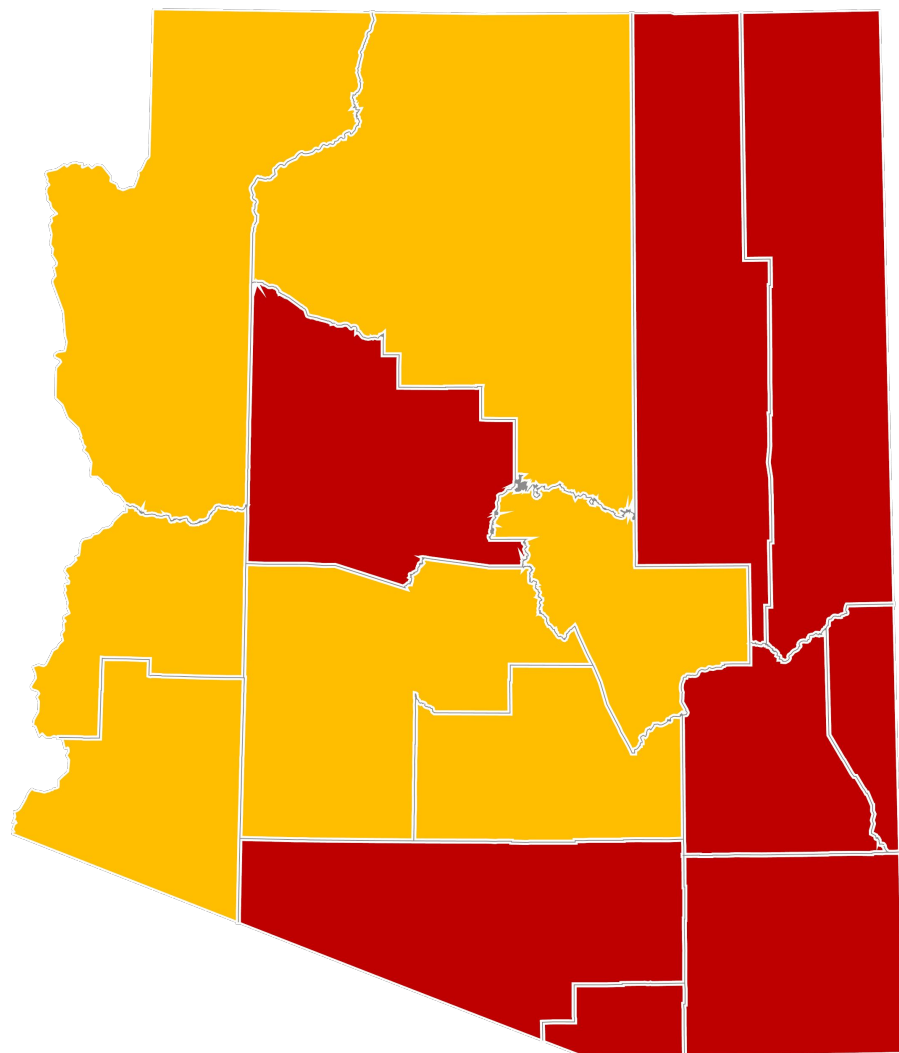


Transmission Category	Recommended Delivery Model	Requirements
Substantial	Virtual	Onsite Support Services must be offered to students
Moderate	Hybrid	Masks and physical distancing required; no large gatherings
Minimal	Traditional	Masks and physical distancing required



# Business Benchmarks by County

Data for the weeks of Nov. 22 and Nov. 29



Transmission  
Category

Open

Paused

Substantial

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

Bars and nightclubs not providing dine-in services

Moderate

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

Bars and nightclubs not providing dine-in services

Minimal

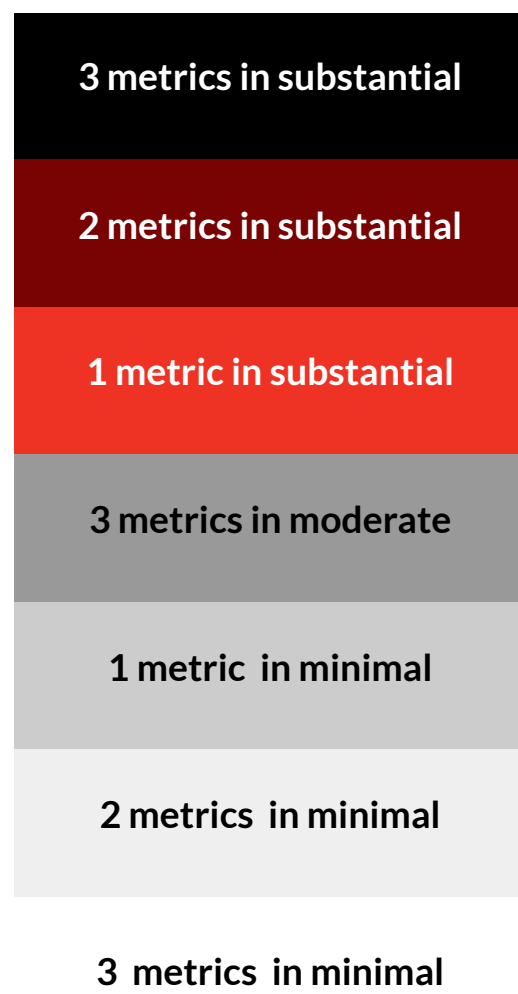
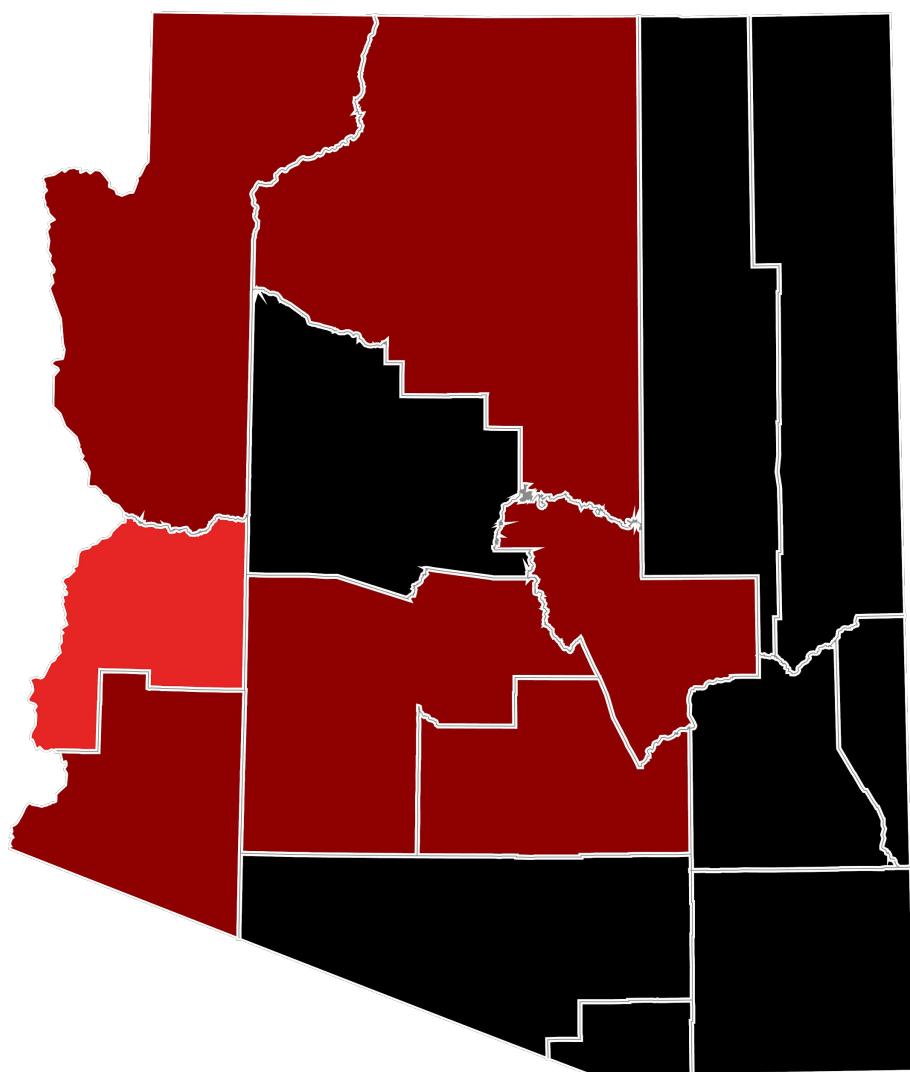
Gyms at 50%; otherwise, same as moderate until <3% positivity, then bars/nightclubs at 50%

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

For the weeks Nov. 22 and Nov. 29, all 15 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.

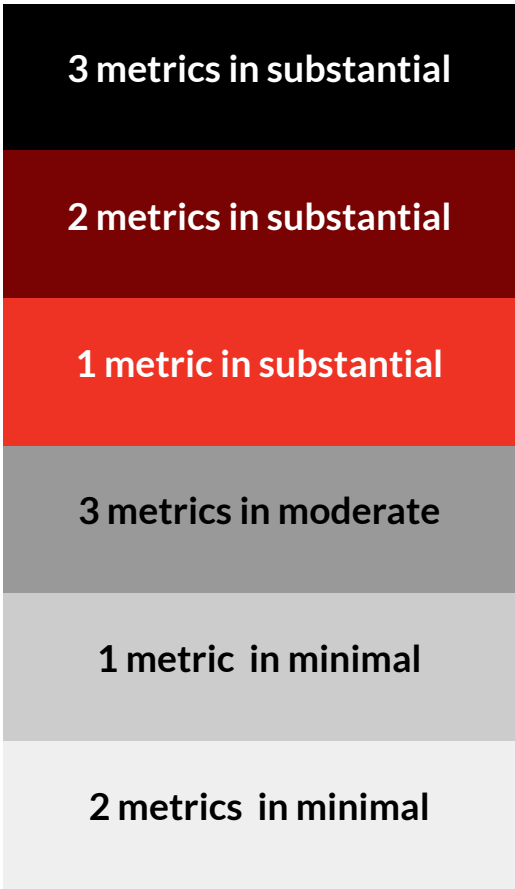
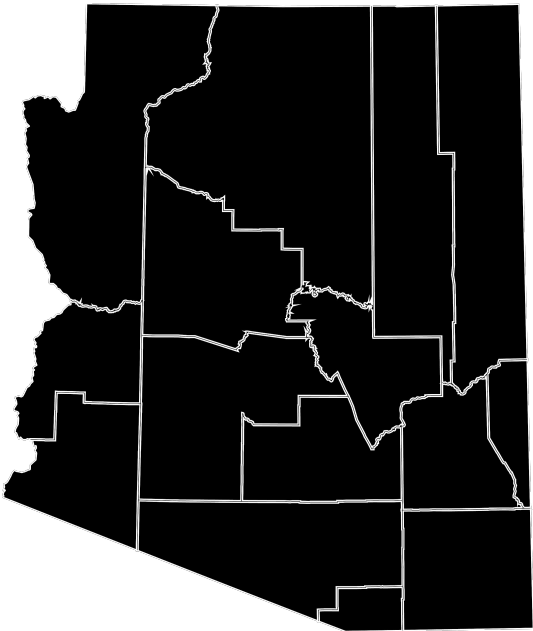
Counties' colors go from light to dark as their risk of moving to substantial transmission category increases.



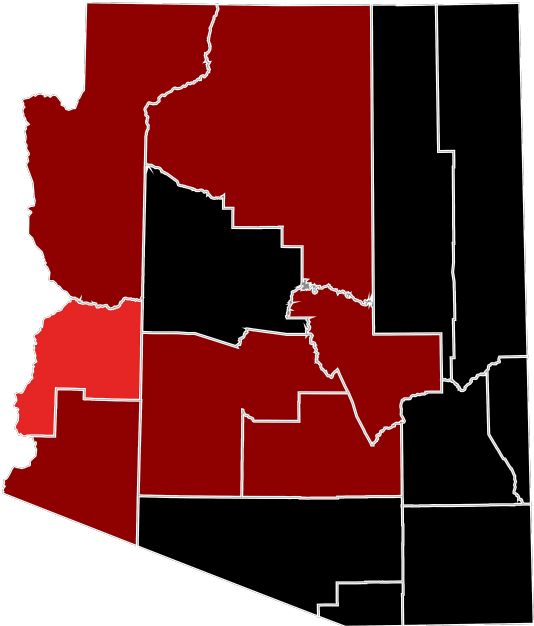
For the weeks Nov. 22 and Nov. 29, all 15 counties have at least one of their metrics in the substantial category.

Looking ahead at the benchmarks for the weeks of Nov. 29 and Dec. 6, all counties have all three of their metrics in the substantial category.

Weeks of Nov. 29 -Dec 6, 2020\*



Current Dashboard  
Weeks of Nov. 22 -  
Nov. 29, 2020



\* Due to delays in reporting, benchmarks for the Weeks of Nov. 29 and Dec. 6 are provisional and subject to change prior to the official posting on the ADHS Business and Schools dashboards.

# Business Compliance

- 6,055** Total complaints submitted to ADHS
- 3,613** Unique business complaints
- 2,450** Business complaints with follow-up complete
- 673** Onsite inspections performed
- 91%** Of onsite investigations performed on weekends

Approximately 97% of the business complaints were closed with technical assistance and/or education on implementing COVID-19 mitigation strategies.

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.

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**35** Average number of daily complaints

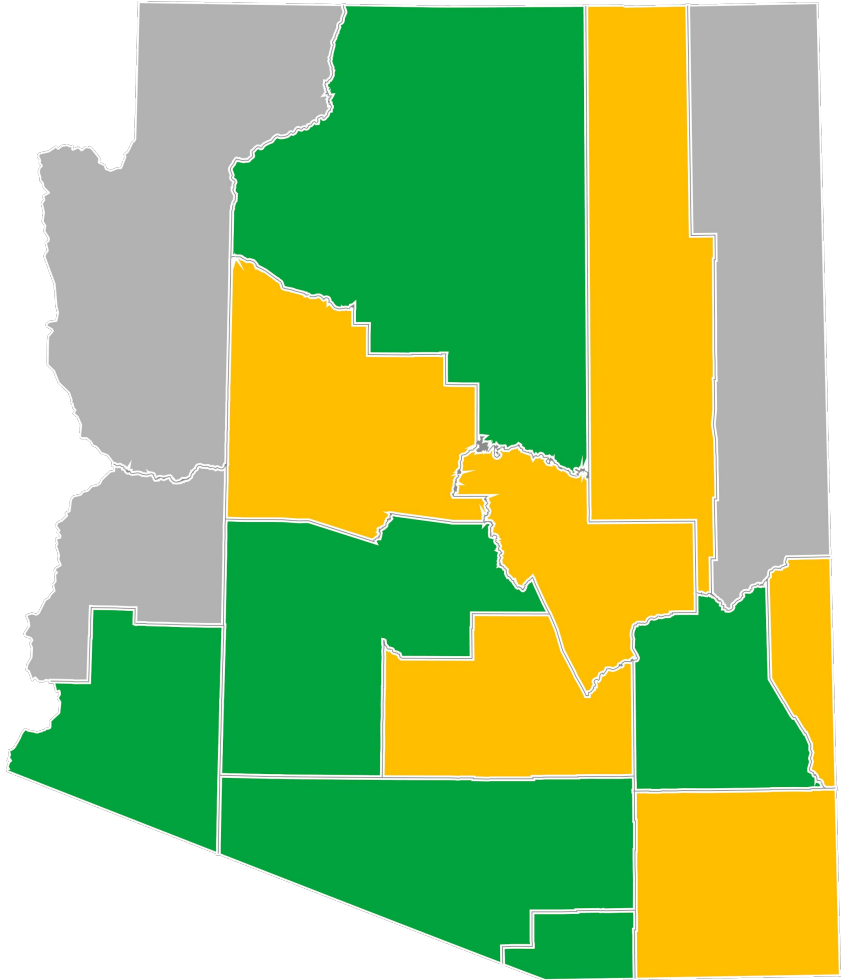
**7** Number of counties that have agreed to investigate complaints

**32** Number of ADHS investigators following up on complaints

**2,105** Number of businesses that have completed attestations

# Statewide Mask Requirements

**100%**  
of Arizona has  
some type of  
mask  
requirement



**No Mask Requirements**

**COVID-19 Mitigation Requirements, including masks, at all Schools, Gyms, Restaurants, Bars, Nightclubs, Theaters, Waterparks, Barbershops, Hair and Nail Salons statewide.**

**Local Mask Requirements**

**County-wide Mask Requirements**

# COVID-19 Data Summary

Through Dec. 17, 2020



435,036 cases



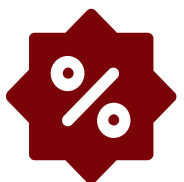
7,677 deaths



2,583,394 people tested



4,933,210 diagnostic tests conducted



18.4% positivity for the week of Dec. 6