



December 1, 2020

Dr. Steve Bebee  
Superintendent  
Casa Grande Union High School District  
1362 N. Casa Grande Ave  
Casa Grande, AZ 85122

Dear Superintendent Bebee:

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic response, per **Arizona Department of Health Services Emergency Measure 2020-03** *"Slowing the Spread of COVID-19: Reporting Requirements"* and more recently, **Emergency Measure 2020-04**, school personnel have worked collaboratively with public health in responding to COVID-19. Superintendent Bebee and school personnel have worked diligently at following mitigation procedures, including wearing face coverings, social distancing, sanitizing and staggering student and staff onsite (in-person) attendance. Public health has offered guidance, resources and supported the school's efforts.

On 12/1/2020, a virtual conference call was held at 1230 hours to discuss the "school benchmarks" and current situation at Casa Grande Union High School. There are two benchmarks in the "red" category. The school district zip code has an 11.2% positivity rate for PCR testing (active disease) along with 215.3/100,000 confirmed cases of COVID-19, reflecting the magnitude of COVID-19 community spread. This data is for the period of 11/1/20 to 11/14/20. Public health's surveillance of the most current data posted daily reveals an acceleration phase in the pandemic. Also concerning to public health is the range of positive COVID-19 PCR tests across various age groups – from infants to elders.

At this time, Pinal County Public Health recommends the following for Casa Grande Union High School: **return to virtual learning. Please consider a temporary closure of onsite (in-person) learning activities from Monday, December 7, 2020 through Friday January 16, 2021.**

**Return to onsite (in person) or hybrid instruction would resume on Tuesday, January 19, 2021 (since Monday, January 18<sup>th</sup> is a holiday).** The return date allows for one full 14 day quarantine period after the New Years Day holiday. It is also recommended that the data be re-evaluated prior to the return to onsite (in-person) or hybrid learning models.

Public Health's recommendation for temporary return to virtual learning considers the health and well-being of the staff, students and community. May those who are ill have a full recovery to health.

Public Health appreciates the collaborative efforts of Casa Grande Union High School during the pandemic response.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 520-705-4841, Dr. Mariana Casal at 520-705-8828 or Kore Redden at 520-251-2850.

Sincerely,



Tascha Spears, Ph.D., M.Sc., RN  
Director  
Pinal County Public Health



Dr. Mariana Casal  
Division Manager  
Infectious Diseases Epidemiology Surveillance