



Dr. Lily Matos DeBlieux
Superintendent

November 19, 2020

GOVERNING BOARD

Susan Serin
President

Jete White
Vice-President

Hilda Ortega-Rosales
Member

Jose Arenas
Member

Senator Martin Quezada
Member

Dear Pendergast Community,

Your health and safety and that of our students and families is of the utmost importance to all of us. By now, you may have been following the news about the COVID-19 cases in our state and our communities and have seen there has been a significant increase in cases. We are carefully monitoring the benchmark data from the Maricopa County Department of Health and the Arizona Department of Health services and sharing it with you in order to be transparent and to keep you safe and informed.

The data from [Maricopa County](#) shows that the number of cases have increased in our zip codes and school communities and show the overall risk is **substantial** and we need to remain in a **distance learning mode**.(See chart below)

EXECUTIVE CABINET

Dr. Jennifer Cruz
Chief Academic Officer

Joanne Fimbres
Chief Financial Officer

Patti Tussey
Chief Human Resource Officer

Report based on school district: Pendergast Elementary School District

Most Recent Data [1]	
Cases Per 100k People	210.41490796
Percent Positivity	13.15%
Covid-Like Illness	5.03%
Prior Weeks Data [2]	
Cases Per 100k People	171.35585319
Percent Positivity	12.59%
Covid-Like Illness	4%



In order to diminish the COVID-19 cases, we all need to be mindful by wearing masks continuously, practicing social distancing of at least six feet apart and washing hands constantly. We know the pandemic has been long and tiring and we are all anxious to get “back to normal”. However, in order to do this, we must all work together for the health and safety of our families, our schools and our communities.

Please read the information below and feel free to share it. With the holidays upon us soon, we all need to do our part to practice safety measures to reduce the spread of the virus. We all want to go back to in-person learning and opening our schools but will not do so until it is deemed safe. If you have additional questions or concerns, we ask that you contact your student’s school principal for more information. Additional information also can be found at www.Maricopa.gov/Covid19 or for medical questions related to COVID-19, please call 1-844-542-8201.

What is COVID-19?

COVID-19 is a respiratory illness caused by a virus that had not been previously identified. People with COVID-19 can have a range of symptoms from a mild cold-illness to severe pneumonia. Symptoms of COVID-19 include fever (>100.4°F), cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, chills, sore throat, headache, muscle/body aches, runny nose, or congestion, vomiting, diarrhea, and/or a new loss of taste or smell.

How is COVID-19 spread?

COVID-19 spreads most commonly in the same way as the common cold or flu – through respiratory droplets that are produced when someone coughs or sneezes.

Am I at risk?

People who are most at risk are those who have been within 6 feet of a person with COVID-19 while infectious for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period OR had physical contact with a person with COVID-19 while infectious. According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the risk for severe illness from COVID-19 increases with age and even more so for those who are immune-suppressed or have underlying health conditions such as heart, kidney, or lung disease, obesity, or diabetes.

What do I do next? Can I get tested for COVID-19?

People who have been exposed to COVID-19 are at risk of becoming ill for up to 14 days after exposure. If you haven’t developed symptoms by that time, you are unlikely to develop symptoms from this exposure. However, we also know that COVID-19 is widely circulating in our community, so regardless of this exposure, it is important that you continue to monitor yourself for symptoms consistent with COVID-19. If you develop any symptoms, please let us 3802 North 91st Avenue • Phoenix, Arizona 85037 • (623) 772-2200 • www.pesd92.org



know, and do not send your child to school. See your healthcare provider and/or get tested with a PCR test (nose swab). This is the best test to determine if you are currently infected with the virus that causes COVID-19. If you are not sure where to go for free COVID-19 tests or flu shots, please call 2-1-1 or visit <https://www.maricopa.gov/5620/Take-Care>.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dr. Lily Matos DeBlieux".

Dr. Lily Matos DeBlieux,
Superintendent,
Pendergast Elementary School District