



Dear SNOA members and school healthcare providers,

*-Strength Doesn't come from what you can do. It comes from overcoming the things you once thought you couldn't-  
Author unknown*

As we all move forward in the process of vaccination and school districts deciding their individual district needs, we want to remind everyone that you are not alone. It has been a series of ever-changing challenges throughout this pandemic but each of us has managed to adapt and worked to meet the needs of our districts, students, families, and staff. If we did not have the answer, the resource, or the information, we found it. Kudos to all our Arizona School Health Staff, many of whom have also taken on the additional roles of tracers, vaccine POD coordinators, volunteers, and COVID-19 educators; true public health nurses in every sense of the word. Our normal routines have continually morphed to meet the current situations and needs as has our conviction to push through and overcome. We want to take this edition to give you resources on vaccines, mental health, vaccine hesitancy and re-opening measures to support and ensure safety; but more important to remind everyone that we are in this together. We have seen a greater reliance on communication and support within and between state, local and district agencies and from district to district than we ever have. We have seen the emergence of nurse support groups and a greater reliance on and understanding of the need for School Nurses. There is a glimmer of light at the end of this pandemic tunnel, but the marathon is not over and we still have some detours and obstacles to work around so stay positive, take care of yourselves and keep putting one foot in front of the other.



**Nadine Miller**  
**SNOA President-Partners in Health and Education**

**ADE: School Safety and Social Wellness Links**

[Tribal Nations Positive Mental Health Message](#)

[Free Suicide Prevention Training for Arizona Educators](#)

[Project AWARE Whiteboard Geeks Video](#)

[Bullying Prevention](#)

[School Safety Task Force and Info.](#)

[SchoolSafety.gov](#)



If you have not heard the news, there is a new Program Director for the Children and Youth with Special Healthcare Needs at ADHS, Janet Viloría. This department has transitioned under the Office of Children's Health in the Bureau of Woman's and Children's Health.

The following are the contact names and numbers to be aware of moving forward: Laura Luna Bellucci is the Chief for the Office of Children's Health:

[Laura.bellucci@azdhs.gov](mailto:Laura.bellucci@azdhs.gov)

Janet Viloría is the Program Director for CYSHCN: [Janet.Viloría@azdhs.gov](mailto:Janet.Viloría@azdhs.gov)

And

Manu Nair is the Program Manager for CYSHCN: [manu.nair@azdhs.gov](mailto:manu.nair@azdhs.gov)

The Sensory Screening Program also transitioned to the Office of Children's Health and that program contact is Ashley Neves: [Ashley.Neves@azdhs.gov](mailto:Ashley.Neves@azdhs.gov)

**Mental Health & Coping Resources during COVID-19**

[Coronavirus Sanity Guide](#)

[Behind Closed Doors During COVID](#)

[Helping Children Cope with the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)

[COVID-19 Maricopa Resource and Information Guide](#)

[Mental Health and Wellbeing Coconino County AZ](#)

[Manage Anxiety and Stress Pima County](#)

[HHS.gov](#)

[Back-to-School Anxiety During COVID](#)

[Helping Children Cope with Changes Resulting from COVID-19](#)

[COVID-19: Caring for Children and Youth With Special Health Care Needs](#)

[NASN COVID-19 Reference](#)

[Phoenix Children's COVID-19 Resource Center](#)

[Tips on COVID-19 Resources for the disability Community in Arizona](#)

## CDC Researchers Indicate Safe In-Person School is Possible

According to researchers at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the “preponderance of available evidence” suggests that schools can safely hold in-person instruction if mask-wearing and social distancing are maintained. And it’s critical. “Schools are an important source not just of education, but health and social services for children,” Dr. Margaret Honein of the CDC’s COVID-19 emergency response team, told The New York Times.

The key will be imposing limits within the larger community to keep infection rates low; the CDC researchers wrote in the journal JAMA. In addition, risky school activities such as indoor sports and group gatherings like pizza parties need to be put on hold, they indicated. “Back in August and September, we did not have a lot of data on whether or not we would see the same sort of rapid spread in schools that we had seen in other high-density work sites or residential sites,” Dr. Honein told the Times. “But there is accumulating data now that with high face mask compliance, and distancing and co-horting of students to minimize the total number of contacts, we can minimize the amount of transmission in schools.”

The JAMA article concluded that “Committing today to policies that prevent SARS-CoV-2 transmission in communities and in schools will help ensure the future social and academic welfare of all students and their education.”

Sources: The New York Times, 1/26/21; JAMA, 1/26/21

### Arizona Department of Health Services COVID Links

<https://www.azdhs.gov/preparedness/epidemiology-disease-control/infectious-disease-epidemiology/index.php#novel-coronavirus-home>

<https://www.azdhs.gov/preparedness/epidemiology-disease-control/infectious-disease-epidemiology/covid-19/dashboards/index.php>

### Vaccine Hesitancy resources

[Building Confidence in COVID-19 Vaccines Among your Patients](#)

[Message Strategies for overcoming COVID-19 Vaccine Hesitancy](#)

[Vaccine Hesitancy: How to talk with Parents and Guardians](#)

[COVID-19 Vaccination Communication](#)

[10 tips for talking with patients](#)

### CDC Continuum of risk by learning models and mitigation:

“In general, the risk of spread of COVID-19 in schools increases across the continuum of virtual, hybrid, to in-person learning. The risk for hybrid and in-person learning can be lowered depending on the mitigation strategies put in place and the extent to which they are followed.

While not exhaustive, this stratification attempts to characterize the risks of spread among students, teachers, and staff across this continuum: Lowest risk, Some risk, Medium risk, Higher risk, Highest risk.”

### CDC links:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/schools.html>

[Considerations for K-12 Schools: Readiness and Planning Tool](#)

[School Walkthrough Guide](#)

[Setting up your classroom](#)

[Teacher and Staff resuming In-Person Learning](#)

[K-12 Schools Evaluation](#)