



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Arizona Medical Association Responds to Executive Order Restricting COVID-19 Mitigation Measures at Arizona Universities

June 23, 2021 (Phoenix) – The Arizona Medical Association (ArMA) understands the reality of different political perspectives regarding vaccines, but that should never detract from sound public health policy. All Arizonans deserve to receive the most scientifically credible information possible so that they can make an informed decision about what is best for themselves, their family, and the community – including the student community.

In the recent controversy surrounding AZ Executive Order 2021-15, which states, in part, that Arizona’s universities cannot require students to get vaccinated against COVID-19, there may be some confusion about what the actual Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) policy is regarding universities and students returning to school. The CDC has specific guidance for situations at Institutions of Higher Education (IHEs) where not everyone is fully vaccinated. Those wishing to see this information can go online to: [Considerations for Institutions of Higher Education \(IHEs\) \(cdc.gov\)](https://www.cdc.gov/ehp/pubs/other/2020/s1000101.htm).

The CDC recommendations include offering and promoting vaccinations, the consistent and correct use of masks, physical distancing, handwashing, testing for COVID-19, and maintaining healthy environments and operations. These measures are done to protect those who are not fully vaccinated or may be immunocompromised.

“The COVID-19 pandemic continues, and ArMA shares the valid concerns of many students and families about controlling the spread of the virus once in-person classes resume,” stated Miriam Anand, MD, ArMA President. “As much as we may want to, ArMA cannot control the policy debate on vaccinations and public health. However, we can, and do, stand unequivocally behind reliable, evidence-based information to help all Arizonans navigate through this pandemic safely.”

For those students wishing to do the right thing for the health of themselves and others, ArMA urges them to review and follow the CDC guidelines. In addition to adhering to CDC guidance, we continue to encourage all those who are eligible to get vaccinated against COVID-19.

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About Arizona Medical Association

The Arizona Medical Association (ArMA) is the largest organization in the state representing the interests of all physicians. Since 1892, ArMA has been advancing patient care and providing its members

with leadership, advocacy, education, and networking. For more information, visit www.AZmed.org and follow ArMA on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [LinkedIn](#).