



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Arizona Medical Association Commends Court for Striking Down Prohibitions on Universal Masking

September 30, 2021 (Phoenix) — From the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Arizona Medical Association (ArMA) has fiercely and vocally advocated for the implementation of evidence-based public health policy. In alignment with these efforts, ArMA is pleased with the Maricopa County Superior Court’s recent ruling, which deemed policies restricting the utilization of COVID-19 mitigation strategies as unconstitutional. The Court’s ruling eases the burden on our communities — especially those experiencing a high rate of transmission — by granting them access to a wider range of tools to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

“As physicians, we have a singular goal, and it is to protect the health and wellbeing of our patients,” stated Miriam Anand, MD, President of ArMA. “ArMA’s position throughout the COVID-19 pandemic has been unwavering; if we want to see the end of this pandemic, we must implement strong public health policy that aligns with the latest guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The Court’s ruling will give schools, universities, and businesses the ability to discern what policies should be employed to best protect the health of their students, customers, and community members.”

Earlier this month, the CDC [published findings](#) from a study evaluating the relationship between mask policies and COVID-19 outbreaks in Arizona schools. The study found that Arizona schools without mask requirements were 3.5 times more likely to experience COVID-19 outbreaks than schools with mask requirements. The study’s findings demonstrate the need to follow the CDC’s [current guidance](#), which recommends universal masking for students, staff members, faculty, and visitors in K–12 schools, regardless of vaccination status. ArMA is encouraged by the fact that schools will no longer face a legal barrier to implementing universal masking, which is a particularly important prevention strategy for those who are not yet eligible to be vaccinated.

While mitigation measures such as universal masking play an important role in protecting Arizonans, widespread vaccination against COVID-19 is our best line of defense. As Arizona continues to report positive cases of COVID-19, ArMA strongly encourages all eligible Arizonans — which includes individuals aged 12 years and older — to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. If you have questions or concerns about receiving the COVID-19 vaccine, ArMA urges you to have a discussion with your doctor.

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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 community. For more information, visit www.AZmed.org and follow ArMA on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [LinkedIn](#).