



September 16, 2020

This is an update to our response to “return to school” questions from our patients.

The county has put out some useful parameters to decide when it is less risky to return to school in either a hybrid or a regular model. Those recommendations are here:

<https://www.azdhs.gov/documents/preparedness/epidemiology-disease-control/infectious-disease-epidemiology/novel-coronavirus/covid-19-safely-return-to-in-person-instruction.pdf>

It includes the website for the Arizona Department of Health and Safety dashboard so you can see those numbers for yourself.

A few words of recommendation from us:

- We continue to support our families with their individual decisions regarding return to school. We know that this is a hard decision and we know that your kids are affected by this social isolation in many ways. We are here to help if you have individual questions regarding your child and their personal risk regarding a return to in-person education.
- **In-person schooling is not without risk.** Though the risk may be small for your children as kids continue to demonstrate a low rate of serious illness and death from Covid-19, it is not zero. The largest risk continues to be community spread by those affected children. We are seeing this in our local University and in schools who have already returned to in-person education.
- To that end, if your child is to return to in-person education in any capacity, please consider a more stringent lock down for them outside of school. If they go to stores, grandparents’ houses, play dates and other activities, they have the chance to spread Covid-19 to those who are at serious risk. The only way to continue forward progress in education is for everyone to do their part in mitigating the spread of this infection.
- **Masks are an integral part of protection for our community.** Please mandate masks for your children while at school and if they are in any community setting.
- The best way to help our kids with the negative mental health effects of this new world is to model positivity and social consciousness. If your kids see you caring about others by wearing a mask and following guidelines, it will be less traumatic for them. We see you do this everyday in our office and it makes all the difference. We are thankful for you!

As always, the staff at Tanque Verde Pediatrics is here for you. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the return to school for your children, please call us. We’d be happy to consult on this issue with you. Thank you for keeping Tucson safe and healthy! We’ll see you at Flu Shot Drive Through Clinic soon!

The Doctors and Staff of TVP