

Louis M. Andersen  
County Manager



Leo Lew  
Deputy County Manager

Tascha Spears, Ph.D., M.Sc., RN  
Director  
Public Health

**PINAL COUNTY**  
WIDE OPEN OPPORTUNITY

Himanshu Patel  
Deputy County Manager

10/14/2020

Greg Wyman, Ed.D.  
Superintendent  
J.O. Combs Unified School District  
43371 N. Kenworthy Rd  
San Tan Valley, AZ 85140

Dear Superintendent Wyman:

In accordance with the attached, "*Guidance on Arizona Public Health Authority for Reporting and Control Measures for COVID-19*," Pinal County Public Health Services District is issuing this order requesting your compliance with **Arizona Administrative Code R9-6-303, Isolation, Quarantine, Exclusion and Other Control Measures**.

The control measures being imposed are the closure of onsite learning and school activities at **Combs High School** beginning **Thursday, 10/15/2020**.

On 10/14/20 Pinal County Public Health Services was advised of novel coronavirus (COVID-19) cases and exposures at Combs High School. According to **Arizona Administrative Code R9-6-361 Novel Coronavirus**, Pinal County Public Health was required to notify the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) within 24 hours after receiving the report.

Pinal County Public Health complied with this requirement at 1246 hours on 10/14/20.

Throughout the afternoon of 10/14/20, the Superintendent, along with faculty at Combs High School, worked collaboratively with Pinal Public Health to identify multiple onsite staff and students who were potentially exposed to individual(s) that had tested positive for COVID-19.

It was determined that onsite students and staff were exposed on October 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> with person(s) who tested positive for COVID-19. All of those exposed are required to quarantine for 14 days since the last known date of exposure. Because early indications indicate the last date of potential exposure is October 13<sup>th</sup>, the 14 day quarantine period would be from October 13<sup>th</sup> through to October 27<sup>th</sup> with onsite learning resuming on October 28<sup>th</sup>.

School personnel have been assisting public health in notifying those who were potentially exposed. If case investigations by Public Health identify additional exposures occurring after 10/13/20, the time frame for closure may be extended as needed.

For more information regarding COVID-19, along with free COVID-19 test sites in Pinal County, please visit the Pinal County Public Health website at:

<https://www.pinalcountyz.gov/publichealth/Coronavirus/Pages/Home.aspx>

Thank you for complying with the control measures required to limit the spread of novel coronavirus (COVID-19) among staff, students and the community.

If you have additional questions, please do not hesitate to call me at 520-866-7326.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tascha Spears". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Tascha" being more prominent than the last name "Spears".

Tascha Spears, Ph.D., M.Sc., RN  
Director  
Pinal County Public Health Services District

## **Guidance on Arizona Public Health Authority for Reporting and Control Measures for COVID-19**

### **Arizona Administrative Code R9-6-102. Release of Information**

A person shall release information, including protected health information as defined in 45 CFR 160.103, to the Department or a local health agency upon request if the information is:

1. Requested by the Department or the local health agency for the purpose of:
  - a. Detecting, preventing, or controlling a communicable disease; or
  - b. Preventing injury or disability that may result from a communicable disease; and
2. In the possession of the person.

### **Arizona Administrative Code R9-6-361. Novel Coronavirus (e.g., SARS or MERS)**

#### *A. Case control measures:*

1. A diagnosing health care provider or an administrator of a health care institution, either personally or through a representative, shall isolate and institute both airborne precautions and contact precautions for a novel coronavirus case or suspect case, including a case or suspect case of severe acute respiratory syndrome or Middle East respiratory syndrome, until evaluated and determined to be noninfectious by a physician, physician assistant, or registered nurse practitioner.

2. A local health agency shall:

- a. Upon receiving a report under R9-6-202 of a novel coronavirus case or suspect case, notify the Department within 24 hours after receiving the report and provide to the Department the information contained in the report; b. In consultation with the Department, ensure that isolation and both airborne precautions and contact precautions have been instituted for a novel coronavirus case or suspect case to prevent transmission; c. Conduct an epidemiologic investigation of each reported novel coronavirus case or suspect case; and d. For each novel coronavirus case, submit to the Department, as specified in Table 2.4, the information required under R9-6-206(D).

#### *B. Contact control measures:*

A local health agency, in consultation with the Department, shall determine which novel coronavirus contacts will be quarantined or excluded, according to [R9-6-303](#), to



prevent transmission.

**Arizona Administrative Code R9-6-303. Isolation, Quarantine, Exclusion, and Other Control Measures**

*A. When a local health agency is required by this Article to isolate or quarantine an individual or group of individuals, the local health agency:*

1. Shall issue a written order:

a. For isolation or quarantine and other control measures;

b. To each individual or group of individuals and, for each individual who is a minor or incapacitated adult, the individual's parent or guardian, except as provided in subsection (A)(2); c. That specifies:

i. The isolation or quarantine and other control measure requirements being imposed, including, if applicable, requirements for physical examinations and medical testing to ascertain and monitor each individual's health status; ii. The identity of each individual or group of individuals subject to the order; iii. The premises at which each individual or group of individuals is to be isolated or quarantined; iv. The date and time at which isolation or quarantine and other control measure requirements begin; and v. The justification for isolation or quarantine and other control measure requirements, including, if known, the disease for which the individual or individuals are believed to be cases, suspect cases, or contacts; and d. That may provide information about existing medical treatment, if available and necessary to render an individual less infectious, and the consequences of an individual's failure to obtain the medical treatment; and

2. May post the written order in a conspicuous place at the premises at which a group of individuals is to be isolated or quarantined if:

a. The written order applies to the group of individuals, and b. It would be impractical to provide a copy to each individual in the group.

*B. A local health agency may issue a written order for additional control measures:*

1. Except as provided in subsection (A)(2), to each affected individual, group of individuals, or person and, for each individual who is a minor or incapacitated adult, the individual's parent or guardian;

2. That specifies:

a. The control measure requirements being imposed, including, if applicable, requirements for:

i. Being excluded from working as a food handler, caring for patients or residents in a health care institution, or caring for children in or attending a school or child care establishment; ii. Avoiding other locations where the individual or an individual in the group of individuals may pose a health risk to other individuals; iii. Observing airborne precautions, droplet precautions, or contact precautions and the methods by which the individual shall comply with the requirement;

iv. Prophylaxis or immunization, as applicable, as an alternative to or to reduce the length of exclusion; v. Physical examinations and medical testing to ascertain and monitor the

individual's health status; or vi. Not creating a situation where additional individuals may be exposed to the communicable disease; b. The identity of each individual, group of individuals, or person subject to the order; c. The date and time at which the control measure requirements begin; and d. The justification for the control measure requirements, including:

i. If known, the disease for which the individual or individuals are believed to be cases, suspect cases, or contacts; and ii. If applicable, the possible consequences of the individual, group of individuals, or person failing to follow the recommendations of the Department or the local health agency to control the spread of the communicable disease; and

3. That may provide information about the disease, existing medical treatment, if applicable, and the consequences of an individual's failure to comply with the order.

*C. Within 10 calendar days after the issuing of a written order described in subsection (A) or (B), if a local health agency determines that isolation, quarantine, or other control measure requirements need to continue for more than 10 calendar days after the date of the order, the local health agency shall file a petition for a court order that:*

1. Authorizes the continuation of isolation, quarantine, or other control measure requirements pertaining to an individual, a group of individuals, or a person;

2. Includes the following:

a. The isolation, quarantine, or other control measure requirements being imposed, including, if applicable, requirements for physical examinations and medical testing to ascertain and monitor an individual's health status; b. The identity of each individual, group of individuals, or person subject to isolation,



quarantine, or other control measure requirements; c. If applicable, the premises at which each individual or group of individuals is isolated or quarantined; d. The date and time at which isolation, quarantine, or other control measure requirements began; and e. The justification for isolation, quarantine, or other control measure requirements, including, if applicable and known, the disease for which the individual or individuals are believed to be cases, suspect cases, or contacts; and

3. Is accompanied by the sworn affidavit of a representative of the local health agency or the Department attesting to the facts asserted in the petition, together with any further information that may be relevant and material to the court's consideration.

*D. A local health agency that files a petition for a court order under subsection (C) shall provide notice to each individual, group of individuals, or person identified in the petition according to the Arizona Rules of Civil Procedure, except that notice shall be provided within 24 hours after the petition is filed.*

*E. In the event of noncompliance with a written order issued under subsection (A) or (B), a local health agency may contact law enforcement to request assistance in enforcing the order.*

*F. If the Department determines that isolation, quarantine, or other control measure requirements are necessary, the Department, under [A.R.S. §36-136\(G\)](#), may take any of the actions specified in subsections (A) through (E).*

**Arizona Revised Statutes Title 36 Public Health and Safety 36-136. Powers and duties of director; compensation of personnel; rules; definitions**

*G. The director may make and amend rules necessary for the proper administration and enforcement of the laws relating to the public health.*

*H. Notwithstanding subsection I, paragraph 1 of this section, the director may define and prescribe emergency measures for detecting, reporting, preventing and controlling communicable or infectious diseases or conditions if the director has reasonable cause to believe that a serious threat to public health and welfare exists. Emergency measures are effective for no longer than eighteen months.*

**Arizona Administrative Code R9-6-370. Respiratory Disease in a Health Care Institution or Correctional Facility**

Outbreak control measures:

1. A local health agency shall: a. Conduct an epidemiologic investigation of each reported outbreak of respiratory disease in a health care institution or correctional facility; and b. For each outbreak of respiratory disease in a health care institution or correctional facility, submit to the Department the information required under R9-6- 206(E).

2. When an outbreak of respiratory disease occurs in a health care institution or correctional facility, the administrator of the health care institution or correctional facility, either personally or through a representative, shall comply with the control measures recommended by a local health agency.