



# Yavapai County

Our Mission: "Yavapai County will serve and protect its citizens through efficient management of all its resources to enhance the lives of those we serve."



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## COVID-19, Not the Only Game in Town

Doctors are raising concern about what they're calling a 'triple threat.' COVID-19 coupled with West Nile virus and flu season. The CEO of the Arizona Hospital Association reported illnesses such as influenza and West Nile virus are sending more Arizonans to the hospital recently and hospitals continue to face staffing shortages. Hospitals across the state are trying to catch up with massive patient backlogs amidst the past 19 months of the pandemic.

The '21-'22 Flu season is just getting started, and the CDC reports low transmission of the influenza virus. For the '20-'21 season, Yavapai County had only 9 cases!

It's nearly impossible to differentiate between the coronavirus, West Nile virus, or the influenza virus without a test, however, there are some distinctive signs you can look out for like loss of taste and smell, shortness of breath and neck stiffness. Neck stiffness is most likely to be a symptom of West Nile virus complications, it usually doesn't occur in COVID-19 disease because COVID primarily affects the lungs. Unlike West Nile, which is only transmitted from mosquitoes, the flu and COVID-19 are both airborne viruses. The West Nile virus is not contagious. It cannot be transmitted from person to person. The flu is a highly contagious disease. It spreads when you encounter the germs someone else sneezes or coughs, like COVID-19.

### Doctors said this is what you can do to protect yourself:

1. **From the flu:** Get a flu shot, wash your hands. Call 771-3122 to make an appointment for a flu shot.
2. **From COVID-19:** Wear your mask, social distance and wash your hands.
3. **From West Nile:** Wear bug spray, wear long pants and shirts when outside and drain any standing water by you.

The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to the COVID-19 or influenza virus is to get vaccinated. Appointments for the COVID-19 vaccine can be made through [www.yavapaiaz.gov/chs](http://www.yavapaiaz.gov/chs) or [www.vaccine.gov](http://www.vaccine.gov). If you are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 or what seems to be a bad cold, please get tested for COVID-19 and/or Flu. Testing sites: <https://yavapaiaz.gov/Portals/39/COVID-19/TestingSitesinYavapaiCounty.pdf>.

Yavapai County reports **314** COVID-19 Cases and **3** Deaths since Monday. The county has tested 146,786 residents for COVID-19 and there have been **26,784** positive cases and **649** deaths since the beginning of the pandemic. Yavapai Regional Medical Center reports **34** COVID-19 patients, VVMC reports **16**, and the VA has 1 COVID-19 patient. The County is still experiencing high transmission of COVID-19 with a 14.1 % positivity and 209 cases per 100,000 residents for the week ending October 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**ADHS COVID-19 Hotline – (844) 542-8201** (select Option 8) – offers assistance in English and Spanish from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. seven days a week, except for major holidays. Information on boosters also is posted at [azdhs.gov/Boosters](http://azdhs.gov/Boosters). Information on Monoclonal Antibodies in English: [ADHS - Everyone - Monoclonal Antibodies \(mAbs\) \(azdhs.gov\)](http://ADHS - Everyone - Monoclonal Antibodies (mAbs) (azdhs.gov)), and in Spanish: [ADHS - Todos - Anticuerpos Monoclonales \(azdhs.gov\)](http://ADHS - Todos - Anticuerpos Monoclonales (azdhs.gov)).