



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."



For Immediate Release
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ADHS & YCCHS Confirms First Case of Omicron Variant in Yavapai County

The Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) and Yavapai County Community Health Services (YCCHS) have confirmed Arizona's first known case of the B.1.1.529 COVID-19 variant referred to as Omicron on Tuesday, December 8, 2021. The person who tested positive for Omicron reportedly had light symptoms and was not hospitalized. The individual is in their 50's and was fully vaccinated in April 2021 with the Pfizer vaccine. The individual claims they have not traveled outside of the state or country and had not attended any large gathering. They were tested at a local pharmacy with a PCR test which came back from a lab to YCCHS on December 8, 2021, indicating the Omicron variant. After they were tested, they self-isolated which concluded on Wednesday. Further details are not available.

Symptoms of the Omicron Variant: Although much more data needs to be collected, initial anecdotal evidence was somewhat reassuring regarding omicron, suggesting it caused milder COVID symptoms. The South African doctor who first spotted the virus said she had seen "extremely mild" symptoms among her own patients, including fatigue and a "scratchy throat" but no cough or loss of taste or smell, which are symptoms that have associated with previous strains of the virus. If you're not yet vaccinated – now is the time. In areas of high and substantial transmission, regardless of vaccination status, wear a mask indoors. Remember to stay 6 feet away from people and avoid crowds and poorly ventilated areas. Booster doses are recommended for everyone 18 and older at least six months after completing a primary series of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine or at least two months after the single-dose Johnson & Johnson/Janssen vaccine. Yavapai County can follow the steps below to help our doctors and nurses continue to give everyone the care they need:

- Get vaccinated: azhealth.gov/FindVaccine; or get your booster: azdhs.gov/Boosters
- Get your flu shot: azhealth.gov/Flu;
- Get kids ages 5 and older vaccinated: azhealth.gov/VaccinesForKids
- Mask up, physically distance, keep your hands washed, stay home if sick, and follow other prevention steps detailed at azhealth.gov/COVID-19; and
- If you contract COVID-19, get tested early and see if you qualify for monoclonal antibody treatment to reduce the severity of your illness: azdhs.gov/mAbs

Yavapai County reports 687 COVID-19 Cases and 36 Deaths since Monday, December 6, 2021. The county has tested 107,668 residents for COVID-19 in the past 6 months, and there have been **34,422** positive cases and **861** deaths since the beginning of the pandemic. Yavapai Regional Medical Center reports **90** COVID-patients, VVMC reports **31** patients, and the VA reports **5** patients. The County is still experiencing high transmission of COVID-19 with a **24.3** positivity rate and **489** cases per 100,000 residents for the week ending November 28, 2021. 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. **ADHS COVID-19 Hotline – (844) 542-8201** (select Option number Eight) – help in English and Spanish from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. seven days a week, except for major holidays.