To: The Honorable Chairman and Members  
Pima County Board of Supervisors  

The Honorable Supervisors Elect  
Pima County Board of Supervisors

From: C.H. Huckelberry  
County Administrator

Date: December 7, 2020

Re: Weekly COVID-19 Update Report for the Week of November 29, 2020 through December 6, 2020

Please see the attached geographical distribution of the number of COVID-19 cases occurring for the week beginning November 29, 2020 through December 6, 2020 reported by test collection date. (Attachment) There were 3,429 new COVID-19 cases. In addition, December 5 and December 6 saw the largest daily reported cases to date.

The positivity rate, currently 515 cases per 100,000 residents, that we use to determine the amount of community spread of COVID-19 has also reached its highest point since the pandemic began. As you will recall, discussion during the Emergency Meeting of the Board of Supervisors, the State indicator used by the Arizona Department of Health Services to indicate moderate spread is when the rate changes from Red to Yellow and falls below 100 cases per 100,000 residents. We are presently at five times that rate.

I have also asked, through a letter directed to the town and city managers, for their assistance in informing and enforcing the latest mask requirement as adopted by the Board of Supervisors on Friday, December 4, 2020. Public health measures are only as good as they are enforced or complied with. We are hopeful there will be significant voluntary compliance, but we should be prepared to enforce these requirements, if necessary.

The current rate of COVID-19 spread should be a wake-up call for all to comply with the face mask requirements, curfews as well as all other elements of the most recently adopted public health advisory.

I will advise the Board of the responses I receive from our respective city and town managers regarding their assistance in helping the County public health agency reduce the spread of COVID-19 and thereby preserving hospital and medical capacity.

For the unincorporated area, I am communicating with Sheriff Mark Napier and Sheriff Elect Chris Nanos on this subject.
If legal enforcement through the Courts becomes necessary, I am also informing County Attorney Barbara LaWall and County Attorney Elect Laura Conover as well as the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court of these measures. These actions will ensure we have the necessary infrastructure to begin enforcement of these matters by legal means, which I hope will not be necessary.

Regarding hospital capacity, this weekend ICU availability fell to 0.2% with only one bed available. These were 723 COVID positive hospital admissions 100 more than any other week.

CHH/anc

Attachment

c: Jan Lesher, Chief Deputy County Administrator
Francisco García, MD, MPH, Deputy County Administrator & Chief Medical Officer, Health and Community Services
Terry Cullen, MD, MS, Public Health Director, Pima County Health Department