December 15, 2020

COVID-19 Restrictions Related to Curfew and the Vaccination Plan

Introduction

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to set records for the number of infections and deaths. Total infections for the month of December now total 13,589; 2,554 more infections than the entire month of November. In addition, just in the last week, there have been 70 deaths. Attached is a map of weekly COVID-19 cases ending December 12 of 3,511 new cases. (Attachment 1)

Based on the seriously deteriorating community health condition related to COVID-19 infections, I asked our Health inspectors and other County inspectors to conduct observations of the effectiveness of the voluntary curfew adopted by the Board on December 4, 2020.

Results of Observation

On Friday, December 11, 2020 and Saturday, December 12, 2020 we sent personnel to observe the facilities and businesses we permit or license. In total, approximately 400 observations occurred. Of those observations, approximately 15 percent were seriously noncompliant.

Specifics of the observations will be provided before the end of this week.

Enforcement of Mandatory Curfew

Based on the observations outlined above, I will recommend to the Board that they adopt a mandatory curfew for all County regulated businesses. This mandatory curfew resolution, including penalty is attached for your review. (Attachment 2)

In summary, the primary penalty if a County regulated business violates the mandatory curfew, the penalty will be suspension or revocation of the operating permit of license provided to the business to operate.

This resolution adopting a mandatory curfew applies to everyone but carries no penalty associated with the individual, as it would be difficult to enforce a curfew against individuals without the cooperation of law enforcement.

Vaccination Plan

Vaccines have arrived and will first be administered to health care workers. Please see the attached communication from our public health officials. (Attachment 3)
Recommendation

I recommend the Board approve mandatory curfew Resolution No. ___ for all County regulated businesses.

Sincerely,

C.H. Huckelberry
County Administrator

CHH/anc – December 14, 2020

c: Jan Lesher, Chief Deputy County Administrator
Francisco Garcia, MD, MPH, Deputy County Administrator & Chief Medical Officer
Health and Community Services
Carmine DeBonis, Deputy County Administrator for Public Works
Terry Cullen, Public Health Director, Pima County Health Department
COVID-19

3,511 Cases by Test Collection Dates between December 6 and December 12

Weekly Case Breakdown:
3,229 Eastern Pima County (shown)
60 Mapped on Tohono O'Odham Nation (not shown)
12 in Ajo/Why (not shown)
7 In Outlying areas (not shown)
203 Cases Not Mapped (invalid PC address)
RESOLUTION NO. 2020-__________

RESOLUTION OF THE PIMA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ADOPTING REGULATIONS NECESSARY FOR THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY OF PIMA COUNTY’S INHABITANTS, MANDATING A COUNTYWIDE CURFEW, WITH EXCEPTIONS, ESTABLISHING THE CURFEW PERIOD, AND PROVIDING FOR ENFORCEMENT OF THE MANDATORY CURFEW

The Board of Supervisors of Pima County, Arizona finds:


2. The Covid-19 pandemic is the worst public-health crisis the United States has faced in a century. It has caused nearly 300,000 confirmed deaths in the United States and infected close to 16 million people, though the actual numbers of deaths and infections are very likely higher. Many of those who survive Covid-19 will do so only after experiencing serious illness and lengthy hospitalization. Some survivors experience serious long-term adverse health consequences whose duration is currently unknown.

3. Arizona is again experiencing alarming community spread of Covid-19 and decreased availability of necessary healthcare resources, including hospital and intensive-care beds. Indeed, Arizona currently is experiencing the fastest spread of Covid-19 of any state in the nation.

4. Spread of Covid-19 is particularly common during indoor gatherings such as at bars and parties. Adherence to strategies like mask wearing and social distancing is lower at these gatherings, and given the colder nighttime temperatures, people are more likely to gather indoors during those times.

5. On November 23, 2020, in an effort to curb rapid transmission during these nighttime activities, the Pima County Health Department issued a Public Health Advisory asking all individuals in Pima County to observe a voluntary curfew and remain in their homes between 10 p.m. and 5 a.m. except to work or engage in other essential activities.

6. On December 1, 2020, the Pima County Board of Supervisors voted to continue the voluntary curfew, subject to modification to make it mandatory based on metrics reported weekly by the Health Department. The Board also took other actions to mitigate the spread, including imposing civil penalties for violations of its face-covering mandate, accelerating enforcement against establishments who violate applicable guidance, and recommending that all County residents remain at home as much as they can, leaving their houses only for essential travel.
7. On Friday and Saturday, December 11 and 12, Pima County mobilized 46 inspectors and performed approximately 400 observations from multiple County departments to document compliance with the voluntary curfew. The investigation found noncompliance in approximately 15% of locations observed. Where noncompliance occurred, it was significant.

8. The results of the December 11 and 12 investigation make clear that the voluntary curfew has not been sufficiently effective in encouraging inhabitants of the County to remain at their homes during the curfew period. Accordingly, more stringent measures are necessary to protect the public health.

9. Pima County, through both the Board of Supervisors and its Health Department, has broad authority to take action to protect the public health and safety of all Pima County’s inhabitants, see A.R.S. § 11-251(17); A.R.S. Title 36, Chapter 1, Article 4; Marsoner v. Pima County, 166 Ariz. 486 (1991), including authority to adopt and enforce “regulations necessary for the public health and safety of the inhabitants,” A.R.S. § 36-183.02. Pima County additionally has authority to take emergency actions under A.R.S. Title 26, Chapter 2, Article 1.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,

Section 1. Definitions.

1. “Curfew period” means the period beginning Tuesday, December 15, 2020 and ending on when the Pima County Health Department first reports that the number of confirmed Covid-19 infections in Pima County fall below 100 per 100,000 people, based on a 7-day moving average.

2. “Essential activity” has the same meaning provided in Governor Doug Ducey’s Executive Order 2020-18 (March 30, 2020), as thereafter amended.

3. “Essential function” has the same meaning provided in Governor Doug Ducey’s Executive Order 2020-12 (March 23, 2020), as thereafter amended.

4. “Public place” means any property, whether publicly or privately owned, that members of the public or a segment of the public may enter, and includes, but is not limited to, those places that charge a fee for entry or allow entry by invitation only. “Public place” does not include individual households.

Section 2. Mandatory curfew imposed. A mandatory, limited curfew is imposed on all inhabitants of Pima County. Between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m. each day during the curfew period, all persons are prohibited from standing, sitting, traveling, or being present on any public street or in any public place, including for the purpose of travel, with the following exemptions:
1. All law enforcement, firefighters, paramedics, or other medical or emergency-response personnel when engaged in their official duties.

2. Persons traveling directly to and from work; attending religious services; commercial trucking and delivery services; caring for a family member, friend, or animal; patronizing or operating a business that is an essential function; seeking medical care or fleeing dangerous circumstances; engaging in essential activities; and travel for any of the above services or purpose.

3. Persons experiencing homelessness.

Section 3. Obligations of establishments. Any establishment that permits any individual on its premises to violate Section 2 of this Resolution is a public nuisance dangerous to the public health. The Pima County Health Department may take any available legal action to mitigate the risk to the public health, including but not limited to suspension or revocation of any operating permit issued by the Pima County Health Department.

Section 4. Obligations of individuals. The Pima County Health Department may take any available legal action against any individual who violates Section 2 of this Resolution and is a hazard to the public health.

Section 5. Applicability. This Resolution applies throughout Pima County, including within incorporated areas.

Section 6. Effective date and termination. This Resolution is effective at the beginning of the Curfew Period and terminates automatically at the end of the Curfew Period, except that enforcement action may be commenced or continued after the Curfew Period until completed.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this _____ day of December, 2020.

Ramón Valadez
Chairman, Board of Supervisors

ATTEST: 

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Julie Castañeda, Clerk of the Board
Andrew L. Flagg, Deputy County Attorney
Re: COVID-19 Vaccine Strategy

The Health Department under Dr. Cullen’s leadership has been diligently working on a comprehensive COVID-19 vaccine distribution strategy. We and our hospital and community partners, are committed to the equitable and efficient distribution of the vaccine.

Information for the general public on the COVID-19 vaccine can be found on pima.gov/covid19vaccine.

As you are aware, the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine was approved this weekend for distribution and use in the United States. Starting December 17, 2020, approximately 8,000 doses of this vaccine will be available within Pima County. Pima County Health Department expects an additional 17,000 doses of the Moderna vaccine for distribution starting December 21 pending Emergency Use Authorization on the part of the Food & Drug Administration and final approval from the Centers for Disease Control. The Moderna vaccine is expected to ship late next week for the use of community hospitals and health care organizations that are State approved vaccinators.

As healthcare workers continue to be on the frontline in our fight against COVID-19, these employees are prioritized to be the first vaccinated so they can continue providing care or services. Early vaccine access for this group includes the doctors and nurses who work directly with infected patients and other occupational groups, such as environmental services and administrative staff, who work in high-risk settings where there is prolonged and repeated exposures to affected individuals.

In the short term we expect to see significant demand for vaccination, limited availability from the manufacturers, and logistical challenges standing up vaccine delivery infrastructure. For this reason, the CDC and State Health Department have identified priority groups for vaccination and these have been reaffirmed by the Pima County Health Department Ethics Committee. An overview of the priority populations is provided in the graphic attached. (Attachment)

Prioritized populations may receive vaccine at two Points of Dispensing (POD’s) developed in partnership with the Pima County Health Department: Banner Health, and Tucson Medical Center. These POD’s will dispense the vaccine as determined by the prioritization process above. As more vaccine becomes available, additional PODs will be identified.
Banner and TMC are scheduled to go live Thursday with pilot runs the first few days. We anticipate that screening and registration portals for HCW not affiliated with Banner and TMC but who desire to receive vaccine at these PODS will be live tomorrow. Health care staff affiliated with other hospitals or licensed health care facilities will be divided geographically into east and west groups. Such individual will receive email notices with links to vaccine registration, screening and scheduling for these two PODS.

Moderna vaccine is expected to become available the following week for distribution to local health care partners that have been designated by the state as approved vaccinators. Additional smaller allocations are expected between the 23rd-27th. The table below includes the proposed allocation of the initial 17,000 doses to those partners. The state is developing and implementing a state-wide portal for registration and tracking of these vaccines that should be available in that time frame. Local healthcare providers will be notified as they become eligible as additional vaccination sites. However, the Health Department encourages these facilities to plan for the vaccination of their staff.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site</th>
<th>Doses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>St Josephs</td>
<td>800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St Mary’s</td>
<td>800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>El Rio</td>
<td>700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marana Healthcare</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arizona Community Physicians</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NW Hospital</td>
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<tr>
<td>NWOV Hospital</td>
<td>800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Banner</td>
<td>6100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TMC</td>
<td>6200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>17000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Skilled-nursing facilities, assisted living facilities, independent living facilities, and HUD senior living residents will receive immunizations coordinated by Walgreens or CVS as contracted by the federal government. Pima County Health Department has been working to ensure that these facilities have signed up to receive this support. In certain cases, the Health Department will be providing direct vaccination.

I ask for your patience as we finalize this process in the midst of shifting guidance and incomplete information from the federal and state government.

FG/dym

Attachment

c: Jan Lesher, Chief Deputy County Administrator
    Terry Cullen, MD, MS, Public Health Director, Pima County Health Department
COVID-19 Vaccine Prioritization Overview*

**Phase 1**  
**DECEMBER 2020 - SPRING 2021**

1A: Healthcare Workers  
- Includes EMS Workers

1B: Long-term care facility staff & residents

1C: Law Enforcement

**Phase 2**  
**SPRING 2021 - SUMMER 2021**

- Adults Older than 65
- Adults of any age with high-risk medical conditions
- K-12 and college educators & childcare workers
- Essential service/critical industry workers

**Phase 3**  
**SUMMER 2021 - BEYOND**

- Any remaining phase 1 populations
- Additional high-risk/critical populations
- General population
- Any remaining phase 1 or 2 populations

*Distribution groups and timelines of phases shown are tentative. This information is subject to change due to future vaccine distribution guidance recommendations, FDA approval of vaccines, and vaccine allocation/availability."