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# MEMORANDUM

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Date: February 26, 2020

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

From: C.H. Huckelberry  
County Administrator

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "CHH", is written over the printed name "C.H. Huckelberry".

Re: **Situational Update on the Novel Coronavirus**

The attached memorandum is an update of the Health Department's response to the emerging novel Coronavirus infection threat. We have been tracking this issue very closely since the beginning of the year. As cases in the US have emerged, the Health Department increased our surveillance efforts locally and enhanced our communications with the healthcare sector and emergency preparedness partners.

On January 26, 2020, the Arizona Department of Health Services activated its Health Emergency Operations Command in response to the identification of the case in Maricopa County. Since that time, our Health Department has been in continuous contact with federal, state and tribal partners.

On February 1, 2020, the Health Department initiated a virtual Health Emergency Operations Command with Paula Mandel the Deputy Director for the Health Department as its Incident Commander. This was done precisely to facilitate and streamline communication with the various federal, state and local partners on this rapidly evolving threat.

To date only 79 individuals with travel history to China (and their contacts) have required further investigation. At this time, however, there are no COVID-19 cases in Pima County. Our Health Department and our Office of Emergency Management are actively engaged in updating relevant preparedness plans.

CHH/lab

Attachment

c: Jan Leshar, Chief Deputy County Administrator  
Francisco García, MD, MPH, Deputy County Administrator and Chief Medical Officer, Health and Community Services  
Dr. Bob England, Interim Director, Health Department  
Jeff Guthrie, Director, Office of Emergency Management



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# MEMORANDUM

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Date: February 26, 2020

To: C. H. Huckelberry  
County Administrator

From: Francisco García   
Deputy County Administrator &  
Chief Medical Officer  
Community and Health Services

Re: **Situational Update on the Novel Coronavirus**

Attached please find an update of the Health Department's response to the emerging novel Coronavirus infection threat. We have been tracking this issue very closely since the beginning of the year. As cases in the U.S. and the case in Maricopa County have emerged, the Health Department stepped up our surveillance efforts locally and enhanced our communications with health care sector and emergency preparedness partners.

On January 26 the Arizona Department of Health Services stood up its Health Emergency Operations Command in response to the identification of the case in Maricopa County. Since that time our Health Department has been in continuous contact with federal, state and tribal partners. On February 1 the Health Department stood up a virtual Health Emergency Operations Command, with Paula Mandel the Deputy Director for the Health Department as its Incident Commander. This was done to facilitate and stream line communication with the various federal, state and local partners on this rapidly evolving threat.

To date, the Health Department has assessed 79 returning travelers and related individuals. At this time no infected individuals have been identified. Concurrently we are updating our outbreak preparedness planning processes so that this can be activated immediately.

My assessment is that the threat to our community and to Pima County in general is low at this time. We maintain a posture of heightened vigilance and continue to monitor the situation very closely. It is likely that the current attempts to prevent spread will delay, but not prevent, eventual person-to-person transmission within the U.S. If this occurs, and transmission becomes widespread, the existing control strategies will have to evolve with the changing situation.

Attachment

c: Jan Leshar, Chief Deputy County Administrator  
John Voorhees, Assistant County Administrator  
Dr. Bob England, Interim Director, Pima County Health Department  
Jeff Guthrie, Director, Pima County Office of Emergency Management

ATTACHMENT

# 2019 Novel Coronavirus Outbreak

## Public and Partner Relations Executive Briefing

Updated February 26, 2020

### Background

Health officials are currently managing an outbreak of a 2019 novel (new) coronavirus that began in December 2019 in Wuhan, China. It has now spread to multiple countries, including the United States. As this situation continues to develop, updates may be necessary to provide local response partners with the latest information and guidance available.

### Key Public Messages

- The name for this novel coronavirus strain is SARS-CoV-2 (severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2). This strain is different from the common coronavirus that already circulates in our community.
- The official name for the *disease* caused by this virus is COVID-19. Symptoms are not specific but include fever, cough, and shortness of breath.
- As of February 26, 2020, there are **NO** cases of COVID-19 in Pima County.
- To date the Department has received hundreds of calls and inquiries about COVID-19. Of those many calls assessed 79 individuals who were returning travelers or their contacts.
- The best way for individuals to protect themselves are:
  - Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
  - Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
  - Stay home when you are sick.
  - Wash your hands thoroughly and often with soap and water. If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
  - Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
  - Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.
  - Get vaccinated against influenza (flu).
- Pima County is working closely with healthcare, prehospital, and local jurisdictional partners to provide accurate and timely information and guidance.
- When there is a rapidly evolving situation like the emergence of COVID-19, public health works with local, state and national partners to monitor, prepare for, and respond to emergent public health threats.

### Communications to Partners and Stakeholders

Technical, clinical, and educational guidance is made available through various coalitions, networks, and key stakeholder contacts. Material developed for publication is also available on our website. This guidance may change as state and national health officials publish new and updated recommendations.

- Outbreak Update and Healthcare Provider Guidance – [Updated 01/31/2020](#)
- Infection Control Guidance for Healthcare Facilities – [Updated 02/03/2020](#)
- Guidance for Prehospital Emergency Medical Services (EMS) – [Updated 02/06/2020](#)
- Guidance for Persons Potentially Exposed to the 2019 Novel Coronavirus – Updated 01/30/2020
- Health Department and City of Tucson Joint Talking Points (Tucson Gem Show) – Updated 01/30/2020
- Trade Gems not Germs Handout/Poster – [English](#) and [Spanish](#)
- Hand Washing Step by Step – [English](#) and [Spanish](#)
- Health Department Website – [Regular updates as necessary](#)

### Health Department Media Highlights Since January 25, 2020

COVID-19 and Tucson Gem Show

- KGUN 9 ABC – Craig Smith, "[Pima County preps for Coronavirus](#)"
- KVOA 4 NBC – Denelle Confair, "[Local officials monitor Coronavirus as they prepare for annual Gem Show](#)"
- KOLD 13/FOX 11 – Bud Foster, "[Coronavirus concerns in Tucson rise as Gem Show approaches](#)"
- Arizona Daily Star – Henry Brean, "[Worry over germs shouldn't impact Tucson gem show, officials say](#)"

#### General COVID-19 Preparedness

- KGUN 9 ABC – Luzdelia Caballero, "[Wuhan Coronavirus outbreak action plan](#)"
- Arizona Republic, Op-Ed by Dr. Bob England and Will Humble, "[New coronavirus is likely to go pandemic, but that's no reason to panic or overreact](#)"
- KJZZ News Radio – Greg Hahne, "[CDC Warns Of Coronavirus Spreading Within U.S.](#)"
- Social Media – Updates and Information multiple times per week
  - Twitter – [@pchd](#)
  - Facebook – [@pimacountyhealthdepartment](#)

Healthcare providers with questions should call the Pima County Health Department 24/7 at 520-724-7797  
For more information, visit [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus) OR [www.pima.gov/cov](http://www.pima.gov/cov)