



MEMORANDUM

Date: February 7, 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 read "CHH", is written over the printed name "C.H. Huckelberry".

Re: **Situational update on the novel Coronavirus in Pima County**

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. have emerged, the Health Department stepped up our surveillance efforts locally and enhanced 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 precisely to facilitate and stream line communication with the various federal, state and local partners on this rapidly evolving threat.

The County staff formally engaged with the City of Tucson on this issue on January 27 in advance of the Gem Show. Andrew Squire from the City of Tucson helped us connect with the various Gem Show operators to distribute collateral messaging and respond to inquiries from exhibitors in this event. Subsequently we have worked with the Tucson Fire Department and Tucson Police Department to develop strategies for rapidly identifying symptomatic individuals with a recent travel to China, reinforce infection prevention measures, and to respond to questions as they emerge. On January 31 this information was provided to the Chief of Staff to Mayor Romero by the Chief Deputy County Administrator electronically and the Deputy County Administrator for Health and Community Services by telephone.

To date, only a small handful of individuals with travel history to China have required further investigation into their risk for illness and **none** have resulted in a positive case.

The Honorable Chairman and Members, Pima County Board of Supervisors

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My assessment is that the threat to our community and to Pima County in general is low. However, the Health Department and the County's Chief Medical Officer maintain a posture of heightened vigilance continue to monitor the situation very closely, and will provide periodic updates.

Attachment

c: Jan Leshar, Chief Deputy County Administrator
Francisco García, MD, MPH, Deputy County Administrator & Chief Medical Officer,
Community and Health Services
Paula Mandel, Deputy Director, Health Department
Michael Ortega, City Manager, City of Tucson

ATTACHMENT

2019 Novel Coronavirus Outbreak

Public and Partner Relations Executive Briefing

Updated February 7, 2020

Background

Health officials are currently investigating an outbreak of a 2019 novel (new) coronavirus (2019-nCoV) 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

- As of February 7, 2020, there are no confirmed cases of the 2019 Novel Coronavirus in Pima County.
- There is currently no evidence of local transmission and risk to the public remains very low.
- County, state and federal public health is working closely with healthcare, prehospital, and local partners to provide accurate and timely information and guidance.
- These types of response are part of the core functions of public health work.
- Pima County Health Department and its state and national partners are prepared to monitor, prepare for, and respond to emergent public health threats like the 2019 Novel Coronavirus.
- In this quickly evolving environment, the Health Department is committed to transmit the most up-to-date actionable information to our partners and the community as it becomes available.

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

2019-NCov 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](#)"
- Social Media – Updates and Information multiple times per week
 - Twitter – [@pchd](#)
 - Facebook – [@pimacountyhealthdepartment](#)
- KGUN 9 ABC – Luzdelia Caballero, Local outbreak preparedness and response – *scheduled for 02/07/2020*

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 OR www.pima.gov/cov