



MEMORANDUM

Date: March 3, 2020

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

From: C.H. Huckelberry
County Administrator 

Re: **Communication Regarding the Coronavirus Outbreak (COVID-19)**

Please see the attached communication from Interim Health Department Director Dr. Bob England that provides information regarding the worldwide outbreak of the Coronavirus (COVID-19). Dr. England's March 2, 2020 memorandum has been sent to all employees and puts in perspective the health and medical risks associated with the virus.

As you will recall, this is not the first pandemic we have prepared for as present policies and Administrative Procedures were developed for the H1N1 Influenza pandemic. Our policies are now being modified to meet the current environment of the Coronavirus outbreak.

Deputy County Administrator Dr. Francisco García and Dr. England are the County's subject matter experts and are in daily contact with the Centers for Disease Control, the Arizona Department of Health Services and community health providers.

In addition, our Office of Emergency Management and Assistant County Administrator John Voorhees are coordinating preparedness for a Countywide emergency response if such becomes necessary. County Departments are now reviewing continuity of operation plans prepared to ensure public services continue to be provided despite major natural disasters or medical, health or other emergency events that have widespread community impact.

We will continue to update the Board of Supervisors regarding these issues as appropriate.

CHH/anc

Attachment

c: Presiding Judge of the Superior Court, Elected Officials, Appointing Authorities
Jan Leshner, Chief Deputy County Administrator
Francisco García, MD, MPH, Deputy County Administrator & Chief Medical Officer,
Health and Community Services
Carmine DeBonis, Jr., Deputy County Administrator for Public Works
John Voorhees, Assistant County Administrator
Dr. Bob England, Interim Director, Health Department
Jeff Guthrie, Director, Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security

Date: March 2, 2020

To: Pima County Employees

From: Bob England MD, MPH, Director
Health Department

Re: What County employees need to know about COVID-19

I want to share my perspective with you as we enter the next phase of dealing with the new Coronavirus outbreak, COVID-19. Based upon what we know about this virus so far, it looks like the greatest risk from this new Coronavirus could be our own overreaction. Here's what we know so far:

This virus is quite contagious. The vast majority of infections are mild – sometimes asymptomatic – and not typically lethal (deadly). The real-world impact of COVID-19 when widespread, will look something like a bad flu season. Two years ago, we lost an estimated 80,000 Americans to the flu (meaning probably more than 200 here in Pima County). COVID-19 is most dangerous for many of the same people who are most at risk for the flu: older adults and those with chronic diseases such as heart disease, lung disease, and diabetes.

Every flu season, a very small percent of people may get very sick, so sick that it endangers their lives. But we don't close schools, shutter businesses, or cancel events because of the flu. Doing so will only cause severe economic and social disruption beyond what we will already experience.

Instead, we should ramp up our education on simple ways to stay healthy this time of year:

- Wash your hands, frequently
- Keep your hands away from your face
- Avoid sick people
- Stay home if you're sick

Be prepared for changes as the situation evolves. Additionally, as a government and as individuals, we should stop saying and doing things that falsely communicate this is a dire emergency. For up-to-date information about COVID-19 in our community for yourself or the public, visit the [Health Department's Coronavirus information page](#).

Keep an eye on your County email. If we have anything important to tell you about the virus, we'll send it to you via eBlast. You should also sign up for emergency alerts with the County's emergency notification system (www.emergencyalerts.pima.gov) and be sure your personal contact information is up-to-date in ADP. [See this page for more information about how to sign up](#).

Take care of yourselves as we go through this. Use the same practices we do each cold and flu season, paying a little more attention than most years, and as always, **please stay home if you're sick**.

#AlertNotAnxious