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# MEMORANDUM

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Date: March 12, 2020

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

From: C.H. Huckelberry  
County Administrator 

Re: **Information Related to COVID-19 (Coronavirus)**

Information has now been compiled on COVID-19 or the Coronavirus pandemic and is now displayed on Pima County's website at [pima.gov/covid19](http://pima.gov/covid19). This website is updated daily and has a great deal of information regarding the Coronavirus and issues related to testing, disinfection and symptoms all in one location. The webpage has direct links for the Centers for Disease Control and a number of other webpages related to this subject.

For purposes of demonstrating the contents of this webpage and as a framework for information dissemination regarding the Coronavirus, I have attached screenshots of the webpage, some have been printed landscape style to fit the content to a printable page.

There has and continues to be a great deal of public inquiry regarding this issue. Therefore, a hotline has been established by the State of Arizona (1-844-542-8201), which is operated by the Arizona Poison and Drug Information Center.

In addition, I have authorized the Health Department to significantly increase their phone response capabilities for public inquiries where staff will answer questions, particularly from those who may not have access to Pima County's website.

In summary, the webpage contains the following tabs:

- Questions about Testing, which describes the extent and criteria for testing individuals through appropriate consideration and referral by a physician. This tab also contains current criteria regarding testing individuals who exhibit COVID-19 symptoms.
- Prevention – this tab contains information and other referral pages to best possible prevention strategies in an attempt to prevent community spread of COVID-19
- About COVID-19 – this tab contains a number of referral pages regarding COVID-19 and answers questions regarding risk, testing and how best to protect from the disease.
- Cleaning - this tab also contains information on how to kill the Coronavirus through cleaning procedures and identifies products approved by the Environmental Protection

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Agency (EPA) that will effectively disinfect areas that may be contaminated by the Coronavirus and other germs.

- Printable Materials – this tab provide materials that can be printed in both English and Spanish such as handwashing guides and other printable sheets designed to convey information on how to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

There is also a separate section for our Healthcare and Other Partners with the following tabs:

- Healthcare Provider Guidance
- Testing Guidance
- Personal Protective Equipment
- EMS
- ADHS Webinars
- Other Resources

As previously indicated, this website is updated daily with the latest available information, in addition to daily video updates. The referral links are not provided as an attachment to this memorandum due to the volume of information, but they are valuable for individuals desiring to learn more about this subject.

I will continue to provide the Board of Supervisors with additional information on this matter as well as communicate with other City and Municipal Managers to ensure the best information is available to all.

CHH/anc

#### Attachments

- c: Jan Leshar, Chief Deputy County Administrator  
Francisco Garcia, MD, MPH, Deputy County Administrator & Chief Medical Officer,  
Health and Community Services  
Carmine DeBonis, Jr., Deputy County Administrator for Public Works  
Dr. Bob England, Director, Health Department  
Distribution



## Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

UPDATED March 12, 2020

This page is being updated daily.

There has been [a single presumptive positive case of COVID-19](#) in a returning traveler residing in unincorporated Pima County.

A COVID-19 hotline has been set up to answer any questions from the public and healthcare providers about testing, symptoms, and any other questions you have about the virus. Call 1-844-542-8201 to reach a health care professional.

In addition to this page, get up-to-date information by following us on social media on Facebook, [@pimacountyhealthdepartment](#) and Twitter, [@pchd](#).

### Pima County Public Health Update

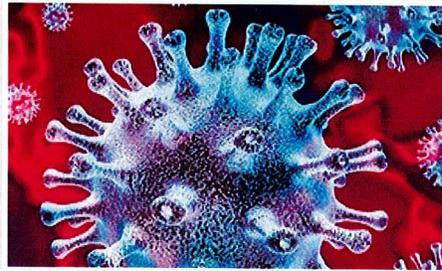
[You can view our daily COVID-19 health updates with Dr. Bob England, Pima County Health Department's Director, on the County YouTube page.](#)

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a respiratory illness that can spread from person to person.

This is a rapidly evolving situation, and the Pima County Health Department (PCHD) is closely monitoring any new developments.

### Local Information and Response

PCHD continues to work closely with state and federal health officials to prepare for COVID-19 in our community and is in close contact with local health systems and health care providers to review cases and provide guidance.



- The current risk for exposure to COVID-19 in Pima County remains low.
- The Health Department is working closely with healthcare, government, and many other public health partners to prepare for COVID-19 in our community.
- There is a chance that people in Pima County will get flu, a common cold, or stomach bug, as we know these are circulating in our community. The best protections against COVID-19 are the same actions you should take to prevent these other illnesses: wash your hands frequently, get a flu shot, and avoid people who are currently sick.

### Private Tests

Private tests are now available with a provider referral at [LabCorp](#) and [Quest Diagnostics](#).

Healthcare and Other Partner Resources.

[Questions about Testing](#)   [Prevention](#)   [About COVID-19](#)   [Cleaning](#)   [Printable Materials](#)   [Media](#)

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recently expanded the criteria for testing of individuals who, through the appropriate consideration of a physician, should be tested for COVID-19.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recently expanded the criteria for testing of individuals who, through the appropriate consideration of a physician, should be tested for COVID-19.

In Arizona, the supply of test kits to conduct these tests is limited and only the AZ State Public Health Laboratory and some commercial laboratories are capable of conducting the test. Until there are enough test supplies and sites available to support wider-spread testing, physicians in Pima County and the Health Department are using the following assessment to determine the urgency for testing in three categories related to their contact with a confirmed COVID-19 case, high risk travel, or highly severe symptoms:

1. People with	Fever, cough, shortness of breath NOT requiring hospitalization	who	have had close contact with a KNOWN COVID-19 patient within 14 days
2. People with	Fever, cough, shortness of breath NOT requiring hospitalization with a high-risk occupation or congregate living setting	who	have traveled from places with community spread of COVID-19 within 14 days
3. People with	Fever, cough, shortness of breath REQUIRING hospitalization	who	have traveled from places with community spread of COVID-19 within 14 days
4. People with	SEVERE symptoms REQUIRING hospitalization	who	have no other explained cause for their severe illness

Testing is not available *at this point in time* for individuals who do not meet these criteria.

If you have respiratory illness symptoms but do not fit into the categories above, you should do the same thing we should always do when we are sick:

- Stay home from work or school
- Get plenty of rest
- Stay hydrated with clear liquids
- Limit contact with other members of your household
- Keep your home clean using approved cleaning products (see our "Cleaning" tab)
- Contact your doctor immediately if your symptoms get worse

## If you have NOT recently traveled to an area where COVID-19 is confirmed as "community spread"...

There are currently no vaccines to prevent COVID-19. The best ways to prevent many illnesses that spread from person-to-person, including coronaviruses, are to:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue or your elbow.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

## If you have recently traveled to an area where COVID-19 is confirmed as "community spread"...

- Anyone who recently traveled to an [area with community wide COVID-19 spread](#) AND experiencing fever, cough, or other acute illness should isolate themselves from others and immediately contact a health care provider (doctor, hospital, clinic) or the Pima County Health Dept.
- **Please call ahead and inform the health care provider about your symptoms and travel history.**

## If you are planning travel to a country where COVID-19 is confirmed as "community spread"...

The CDC has issued a travel warning to avoid all unnecessary travel to certain countries during the outbreak. Cases have also been identified in travelers to other countries, including the United States. This virus can spread from person-to-person. Review CDC's Travel Health Notices if you are traveling to China.

[Review CDC's Travel Health Notices related to COVID-19.](#)

## What is the coronavirus disease 2019?

COVID-19 (previously known as 2019 novel coronavirus or 2019-nCoV), is a new respiratory virus first identified in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China.

It is part of a larger family of viruses called coronavirus, some of which are in circulation normally and can cause illnesses like the common cold. See the "About the Virus" section of this FAQ for more about this family of viruses. You can learn more about coronavirus disease 2019 at the [CDC website](#).

## Has anyone in the United States been infected?

Yes. Monitoring and testing are ongoing across the United States. A current case count table is available on the [CDC website](#).

## Am I at risk for COVID-19 infection in the United States?

Currently, risk to the public in Pima County is low.

This is a rapidly-evolving situation and the risk assessment may change daily. Please visit the [CDC website](#) for the most up-to-date national information.

## Should I be tested for COVID-19?

If you develop a fever and symptoms of respiratory illness, such as cough or shortness of breath, within 14 days after travel from an affected area, you should call ahead to a healthcare provider and mention your recent travel. Public health will work with your healthcare provider to get you tested if recommended.

Individuals who are being monitored by public health will be given specific recommendations to seek care for testing for COVID-19, if needed.

## How can I protect myself?

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

These are everyday habits that can help prevent the spread of several viruses.

## What if I recently traveled to an affected area and got sick?

If you were in a place with community spread of COVID-19 and feel sick with fever, cough, or difficulty breathing within 14 days after you left that area, you should contact a healthcare provider. Before you go to a doctor's office or emergency room, call ahead and tell them about your recent travel and symptoms.

- Cover your nose and mouth with a mask BEFORE you enter the healthcare facility for medical evaluation.
- Avoid contact with others while sick.
- Do not travel while sick.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when coughing or sneezing.
- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds to avoid spreading the virus to others. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.

Still have questions? Find more answers here:

[AZ Department of Health Services Frequently Asked Questions](#)

[Centers for Diseases Control and Prevention Frequently Asked Questions](#)

## Cleaning

[Click here for the Environmental Protection Agency's List of products for use against Novel Coronavirus SARS-CoV-2, the Cause of COVID-19](#)

We do know that viruses like coronaviruses can be killed by following very simple cleaning procedures. If your personal or organization's cleaning procedures meet or exceed these recommendations, most commonly circulating viruses and bacteria can be eliminated:

- Clean all "high-touch" surfaces, such as counters, tabletops, doorknobs, bathroom fixtures, toilets, phones, keyboards, tablets, and bedside tables, every day.
- Be sure to clean any surfaces that may have blood, body fluids and/or secretions or excretions on them.
- Read label of cleaning products and follow recommendations provided on product labels. Labels contain instructions for safe and effective use of the cleaning product including precautions you should take when applying the product, such as wearing gloves or aprons and making sure you have good ventilation during use of the product.
- Use a diluted bleach solution or a household disinfectant with a label that says "EPA-approved."
- To make a bleach solution at home, add 1 tablespoon of bleach to 1 quart (4 cups) of water. For a larger supply, add ¼ cup of bleach to 1 gallon (16 cups) of water.
- Allow the cleaning agent to dry completely before contact with the surface.

For more about cleaning procedures for disinfection, visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at <https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/guidelines/disinfection/disinfection-methods/index.html>

## Printable Materials

- From the Health Department:

[Letter to School Administrators](#) (February 28, 2020)

[Letter to School Parents/Carta para padres/tutores de escuela](#) (March 3, 2020)

- Step by Step Handwash Guide - [English](#)  | [Spanish](#) 
- CDC Stop the Spread of Germs Poster - [English](#) | [Spanish](#) | [Simplified Chinese](#)
- CDC What to Know About COVID-19 - [English](#) | [Spanish](#) | [Simplified Chinese](#)
- Trade Germs not Germs Poster - [English](#) | [Spanish](#)