



MEMORANDUM

Date: November 17, 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 "CH", is written over the printed name "C.H. Huckelberry".

Re: **Present COVID-19 Infection in Pima County and the Role of the Federal Prison in the Current Pandemic**

Present Status of COVID-19 Infection Rates

Please see the attached map of COVID-19 cases by test collection dates between November 8, 2020 and November 14, 2020. The total number of cases for the week were 1,364, an increase from the previous week of 1,165 and an increase from two weeks ago of 808 and 442 from three weeks ago.

Presently, there are 4,620 COVID-19 cases for the first 17 days in November. For the first 17 days of July, the worst month of COVID-19 case increases to date, there were 5,057 cases. Therefore, we are on pace to exceed the total number of monthly COVID-19 infections in our previous worst month, July.

The continued growth of COVID-19 cases in Pima County during the last 4 weeks has been geographically diffused reflecting a substantial degree of community spread in Pima County, with a few notable exceptions. Specifically, geospatial analysis of case distribution in Pima County has identified a variety of "hot spots" that are having a significant impact on our community. Three of which are significant and relate to federal and state prison locations and will be discussed below.

COVID-19 Outbreak in the Federal Prison – 8901 S. Wilmot Road

For the last week our public health agency officials have been engaged with federal and state partners to understand the particulars of a COVID-19 outbreak at the Federal prison on Wilmot Road. High level collaborative contacts with the leadership of the facility have provided a better understanding of the situation on the ground. To date there are about 500 COVID-19 infections among a population of approximately 1600 detainees. The initial cases were identified quickly, and the institution implemented an aggressive program of inmate testing, case identification, and isolation and quarantine to mitigate the risk of spread. Medical services on-site are limited to outpatient acute care. The team includes a medical director, 4 nurse practitioners or mid-level providers, as well as 12 supporting nursing and paramedic personnel. Moreover, additional federal resources are being brought into the institution for further assistance.

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A relatively small number of detainees (about 24) required out of facility hospital evaluation and even fewer required inpatient care at local hospitals, principally TMC. These numbers are modest however given the current staffing issues that are being experienced throughout Pima County and the state, we remain very concerned about the additional strain this may place on local hospital resources. TMC is working with the federal facility to improve the process by facilitating direct admission of patients where appropriate.

Of note, there are approximately 600 staff who work at this facility and who live in the community. Staff has generally been directed to local testing resources either their own clinical providers or through publicly available test sites. To date approximately 160 staff members have been voluntarily tested, through this informal process. Clearly, however there appears to be a large amount of unmet testing need in this population of essential workers.

For this reason, we have requested an employee roster to cross-reference against our COVID-19 results and contact tracing database. The goal is to develop a better understanding of exactly how many employees in total have been tested and their current infection status. This information will be useful both to the facility and the public health agency to develop a more robust testing approach. We believe the facility needs to provide comprehensive COVID-19 testing for all staff, and short of that the County has offered to immediately accommodate those employees in our existing fixed site testing locations. In addition, given that the prison has a Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA) waived laboratory, we have suggested using this resource to provide rapid antigen testing to their own staff, and an offer has been made to provide mobile testing on site.

Within the facility itself, comprehensive federal policies and procedures are in place to mitigate the risk for infection. However significant lapses in basic mask and PPE use have been noted among correctional staff participating in transport and hospital settings. These anecdotal observations, along with Justice Department Office of Inspector General Reports regarding COVID-19 mitigation in other federal facilities, lead us to believe that there is still significant staff education and reinforcement must continue at the facility for the protection of the workforce and the detainees.

In general, our interactions with the leadership at the federal prison have been collaborative and productive. The leadership and staff certainly have the right types of policies, procedures and resources to control the outbreak in the prison setting.

As of Monday, November 16, 2020, we are awaiting an employee roster for the facility as noted above. Employee testing is critical to protecting both the detainees and larger community and our health department is working collaboratively with the facility to meet that need.

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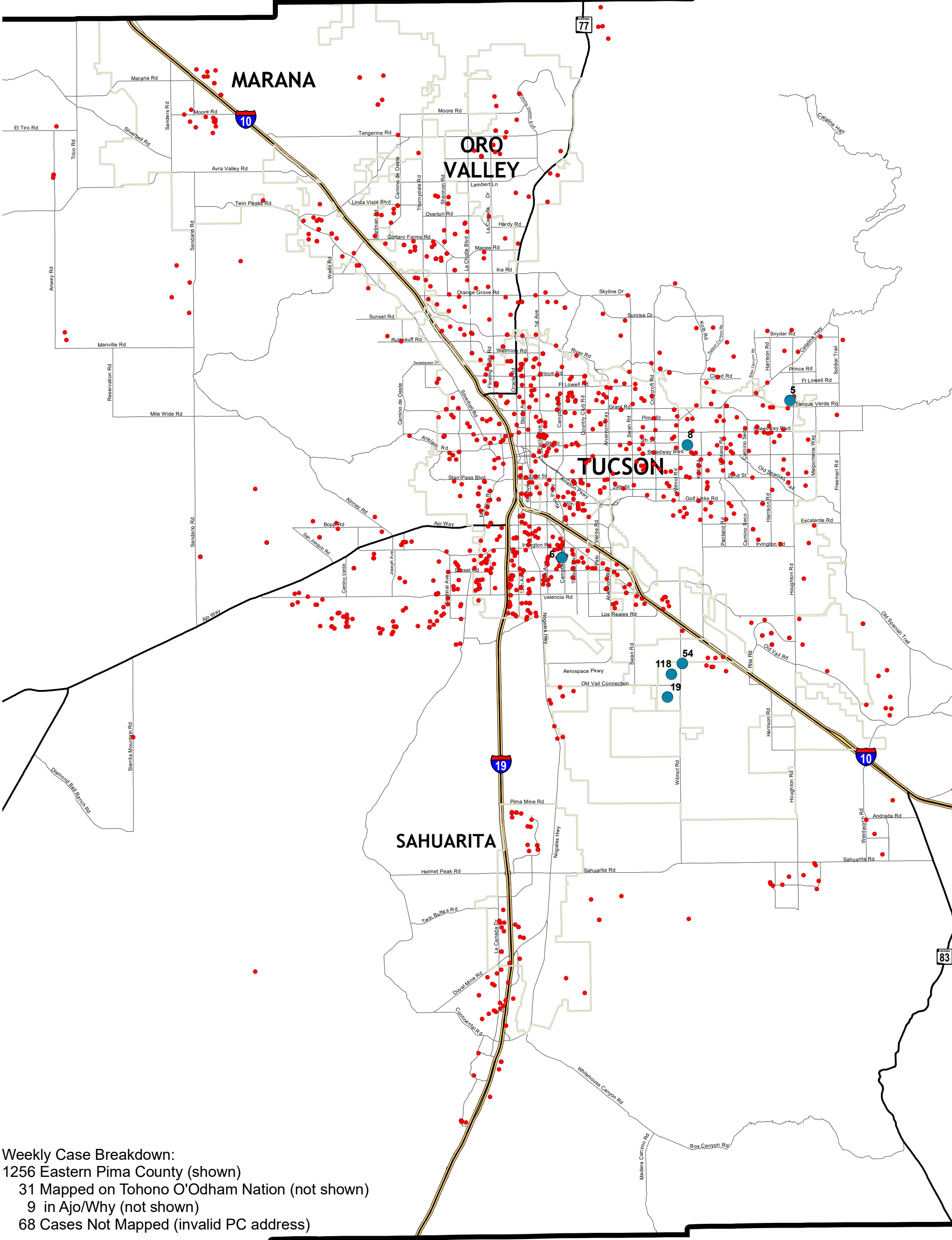
Reemphasizing Important COVID-19 Safety Measures

We will be reemphasizing COVID-19 protection measure protocols with all County employees for the upcoming Thanksgiving Holiday. The primary message will continue to be wear a mask when in public or when physical distancing is not possible, physical distancing, handwashing often, practice good hygiene and disinfection procedures of workspaces and other locations. While there may be prevention fatigue from these practices, they are essential to minimize the spread of COVID-19 and need to be practiced for at least another 6 months while the public health agency is able to obtain and vaccinate a significant portion of the regional population.

CHH/anc

Attachments

c: Jan Leshner, Chief Deputy County Administrator
Francisco García, MD, MPH, Deputy County Administrator & Chief Medical Officer,
Health and Community Services
Terry Cullen, MD, MS, Public Health Director, Pima County Health Department

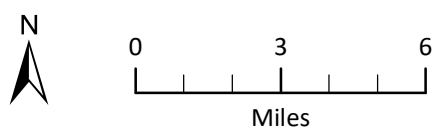



Weekly Case Breakdown:
 1256 Eastern Pima County (shown)
 31 Mapped on Tohono O'Odham Nation (not shown)
 9 in Ajo/Why (not shown)
 68 Cases Not Mapped (invalid PC address)

COVID-19

1,364 Cases by Test Collection Dates between November 8 and November 14

- Case Location
- Single Locations where Cases \geq 5




PIMA COUNTY
 GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS
Pima County Info. Tech. Dept.
 33 N. Stone Ave., 15th Floor
 Tucson, AZ 85701-1207
 phone: (520)740-6670
 fax: (520)798-3429

11/16/2020

Current COVID-19 Case Information
Arizona and Pima County

November

	# of Cases		AZ			Pima Co			Pima Co			Testing			% Change
			Change from	AZ %	Change from	Pima %	# of Deaths		Change from	State	Pima Co	Change from			
	AZ	Pima	Previous Day	Change	Previous Day	Change	AZ	Pima	Previous Day	Total	total	Prev Day			
1-Nov	247473	28824	1527	1%	226	1%	5981	642	1	1-Nov	2105990	308385	2327	1%	
2-Nov	248139	28914	666	0%	90	0%	5982	642	0	2-Nov	2113554	309395	1017	0%	
3-Nov	249818	29141	1679	1%	227	1%	6020	646	4	3-Nov	2124628	310896	1497	0%	
4-Nov	250663	29291	814	0%	150	1%	6059	647	1	4-Nov	2134217	312554	1656	1%	
5-Nov	252768	29456	2135	1%	165	1%	6087	650	3	5-Nov	2149395	314658	2103	1%	
6-Nov	254764	29764	1996	1%	308	1%	6109	653	3	6-Nov	2165973	317034	2380	1%	
7-Nov	257384	30066	2621	1%	302	1%	6147	658	5	7-Nov	2183128	319892	2856	1%	
8-Nov	259264	30419	1880	1%	353	1%	6164	659	1	8-Nov	2197666	322333	2440	1%	
9-Nov	259699	30493	435	0%	74	0%	6164	659	0	9-Nov	2208796	324376	2048	1%	
10-Nov	263133	31013	3434	1%	520	2%	6192	661	2	10-Nov	2224904	326216	1836	1%	
11-Nov	265163	31204	2030	1%	191	1%	6228	669	8	11-Nov	2235120	328091	1875	1%	
12-Nov	266562	31538	1399	1%	334	1%	6240	669	0	12-Nov	2251340	329687	1595	0%	
13-Nov	269577	31874	3015	1%	336	1%	6257	669	0	13-Nov	2271502	332226	2542	1%	
14-Nov	273053	32207	3476	1%	333	1%	6300	670	1	14-Nov	2291553	334849	2621	1%	
15-Nov	275436	32802	2383	1%	595	2%	6302	670	0	15-Nov	2310989	337588	2741	1%	
16-Nov	276912	33087	1476	1%	285	1%	6302	670	0	16-Nov	2338177	340280	2689	1%	
17-Nov	279896	33444	2984	1%	357	1%	6312	670	0	17-Nov	2355107	342394	2114	1%	
November 1 - November 17	4620														

Age Group:

< 20	5719	17%
20 - 44	15352	46%
45 - 54	4620	14%
55-64	3685	11%
65+	3980	12%
Unknown	88	0%
	33444	100%

Sex:

Female	17416	53%
Male	15580	47%

Ethnicity

White NH	9827	29%
Hispanic	11942	36%
Nat Am	1011	3%
Black	878	3%
Asian/PI	382	1%
Other NH	1243	4%
UNK	8161	24%
	33444	100%

Monthly Case Number Increases		
153	March	March 25 - March 31 Case Increase
1024	April	April 1 - April 30 Case Increase
1101	May	May 1 - May 31 Case Increase
5622	June	June 1 - June 30 Case Increase
7780	July	July 1 - July 31 Case Increase
4746	August	August 1 - August 31 Case Increase
4342	September	September 1 - September 30 Case Increase
2892	October	October 1 - October 31 Case Increase
4620	November	November 1 - November 17 Case Increase