MEMORANDUM

Date: October 5, 2020

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

From: C.H. Huckelberry
County Administrator

Re: COVID-19 Pandemic Update #11

Monthly COVID-19 Infections

We now have seven full months of data on the number of COVID-19 infections and overall the trends continue to demonstrate improvement. (Summarized in Attachment 1.) We also now have indications that the spike of cases associated with the return of students to the University peaked during week 38 (9/13 - 9/19) and is now improving, thanks in part to the aggressive mitigation efforts of the County and the University of Arizona. Likewise, we now feel more comfortable that the improvements in terms of mortality and hospitalizations continue to steadily trend down, and appear to not be impacted by the spike.

The table below provides the number of infections per month by date of report by the State and by date of test collection, with the latest month closing on September 30, 2020.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monthly COVID-19 Cases in Pima County as Reported by ADHS</th>
<th>By Date Reported</th>
<th>By Collection Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>153</td>
<td>318</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>1,024</td>
<td>1,089</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>1,101</td>
<td>1,534</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>5,622</td>
<td>7,554</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July</td>
<td>7,780</td>
<td>8,307</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August</td>
<td>4,746</td>
<td>3,194</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>4,342</td>
<td>3,817</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Over 260,000 COVID-19 tests have been collected and processed for Pima County residents since the beginning of the pandemic (just under 15 percent of all the testing conducted in Arizona). To date Pima County Health Department and its contractors have been responsible for more than 90,452 of the tests performed in this jurisdiction. At this time, we estimate that more than 20 percent of Pima County’s population has been tested. Pima County daily test counts ranging from a low of 469 to a high of 2,269.
As of the end of September the total number of deaths stands at 620 in Pima County and has not increased in the last week.

**Weekly and Geographic Location of COVID-19 Infections**

In the last update I provided the Board with maps showing the geographic distribution of COVID-19 cases in Pima County as well as the number of actual cases during any particular week. This information is produced on a weekly basis.

Attached are four geographic locational maps for four weeks in September. These maps allow us to better understand the dynamic location shift of infections occurring within the region. (Attachment 2) The latest map was produced on October 5, 2020. These four maps demonstrate the dramatic shift of COVID-19 infections to the University of Arizona (UA) area. For the week with the largest number of increased cases of 961, September 13 to September 19, 687 of those cases were in the UA study area and represents 71 percent of the total number of weekly infections. (Attachment 3) These infections at the UA study area have ameliorated in the week of September 20 to September 26, decreasing to 207 cases out of the 438 new COVID-19 infections or 47 percent of total regional infections. For the week of September 26 to October 2, the number of Countywide COVID-19 infections decreased to 334 and the number in the University study area decreased to 76. This decrease is representative of infection control practices that can significantly reduce the spread of COVID-19.

As the Board recalls, during the previous week of September 13 through September 19, the Pima County public health agency issued a voluntary stay at home recommendation for the UA area bounded by 6th Avenue, Campbell Avenue, Helen Street and 10th Street. In addition, the County suspended pool permits and directed the closure of gyms and common areas in off-campus student apartments and other housing. These actions along with the enforcement actions of the UA are credited with the drop in caseload count at the UA.

**New Public Facing Data Dashboard**

Due to continued keen interest in the dynamics of the pandemic, and in order to provide transparency to the public regarding COVID-19 infections and deaths and how these are evolving in the region, the County will today activate a new COVID-19 webpage. This webpage displays COVID-19 cases and deaths by age-group, sex and ethnicity. The interactive dashboard map permits users to drill down by geographic location including specific city/town, census tract, zip code, and school district.

This interactive web-based tool will provide additional information and transparency regarding the COVID-19 pandemic to the public. Additional efforts are under way to explore how we may make some limited data set available for public use. We balance these efforts with the obligation to protect the privacy of individuals because it is critical to not create disincentives to participate in the case investigation and contact tracing efforts, and because we are committed to prevent retaliation and stigma for those impacted by this pandemic.
Greek, Sorority and Fraternity Housing

With the initial outbreak of COVID-19 infections at the UA, the public health agency stood up a mobile testing unit that began testing in Greek, sorority and fraternity housing. This testing occurred in early September and continues to date. Attachment 4 shows the significant, concerning trend associated with substantially rising COVID-19 positivity rates in Greek testing trends. Of more concern is the fact that several Greek houses recently cancelled scheduled mobile testing events. I expressed our concern to the UA President in a September 29, 2020 letter. (Attachment 5)

The University’s strategy to test dorm residents upon their arrival initially ensured that that this group was not infected. Subsequent contact tracing efforts have linked many of the individuals in the dormitory clusters to a variety social interactions outside the residential setting and associated with fraternity/sorority life as well as the student high-rise apartments immediately adjacent to campus.

Pima County continues to invest resources in providing mobile test sites to serve off-campus students and the surrounding neighboring communities. Mobile testing efforts are summarized in the table below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Times</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>University Boulevard</td>
<td>825 E University Blvd #101</td>
<td>10/2/2020</td>
<td>7PM-10PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kappa Alpha Order</td>
<td>906 N. First Ave.</td>
<td>10/3/2020</td>
<td>12PM-1PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University Boulevard</td>
<td>825 E University Blvd #101</td>
<td>10/3/2020</td>
<td>7PM-10PM</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Pima County continues to closely monitor these locations for COVID-19 outbreaks and have suggested to the UA President more stringent actions such as suspensions of charters for fraternal organizations and/or expulsion of students who do not comply with quarantine requirements if they are infected.

Fixed Location Testing

The County and its partners and contractors now to operate 5 fixed sites offering free low barrier COVID-19 testing. These are the Kino Event Center, Udall Recreation Center, Ellie Towne Flowing Wells Community Center and more recently El Pueblo Community Center and the Congress Street Parking Structure. Per week testing volume and percent positivity are summarized in the table below. Trends in the overall volume of tests performed continues to be robust, with the highest rates of positive tests at the Kino Event Center.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Sept 4 – Sept 10</th>
<th>Sept 11 – Sept 17</th>
<th>Sept 18 – Sept 24</th>
<th>Sept 25 –Oct 1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kino</td>
<td>257 (19%)</td>
<td>1,203 (7%)</td>
<td>566 (13%)</td>
<td>346 (15%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ellie Towne</td>
<td>382 (3%)</td>
<td>596 (4%)</td>
<td>441 (3%)</td>
<td>271 (4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Udall</td>
<td>719 (6%)</td>
<td>972 (6%)</td>
<td>775 (2%)</td>
<td>636 (4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>El Pueblo</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>106 (9%)</td>
<td>153 (5%)</td>
<td>246 (9%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Congress St</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>26 (0%)</td>
<td>34 (0%)</td>
<td>44 (0%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Mobile Testing Targeting Vulnerable Communities**

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted all of Pima County but has been particularly devastating for low-income people and communities of color. The Health Department was recently awarded $900,000 to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 in vulnerable populations in collaboration with community partners. The three component approach includes 1) Mobile Testing, 2) Care Coordination and 3) Education. The overall goal of this effort is not simply to deliver testing but also to fill the information and services gap that are common in these communities.

The initial effort was focused on ten local church communities as trusted sources of information and support to vulnerable people. Through that effort, testing events were held in conjunction with multiple churches and delivering 408 tests. The positivity rate in these settings was low (2 percent). This experience has served to inform the way these and future services are structured and how community partners are engaged to continue to deliver this type of support over the next year.

This current strategy has been expanded beyond faith organizations to include other trusted community partners. Under this plan the Health Department has conducted 8 mobile testing events in neighborhoods identified by community organizations, but focusing on areas with high rates of poverty and elevated COVID-19 infection rates. This effort has now served over 309 people and has yielded a slightly higher positivity rate of 3 percent, suggesting perhaps better targeting of a higher risk population.

The table below summarizes the mobile testing efforts with vulnerable populations as well as planned testing sites for this week. These sites are designed to provide low-barrier access that includes on-site assistance and registration.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Number Tested</th>
<th>Phase</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7/25/2020</td>
<td>St. Johns Church</td>
<td>602 W Ajo Way</td>
<td>68</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8/1/2020</td>
<td>Our Mother of Sorrows</td>
<td>1800 S. Kolb Rd</td>
<td>89</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8/5/2020</td>
<td>Pima County Interfaith Council</td>
<td>3200 N. Los Altos Ave</td>
<td>43</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8/5/2020</td>
<td>Sacred Heart</td>
<td>602 W Ajo Way</td>
<td>31</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8/8/2020</td>
<td>Sacred Heart</td>
<td>601 E. Ft. Lowell Rd</td>
<td>39</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8/8/2020</td>
<td>St. John Church</td>
<td>602 W Ajo Way</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>PILOT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8/15/2020</td>
<td>Margaret Mary Catholic</td>
<td>801 N. Grande Ave</td>
<td>41</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8/22/2020</td>
<td>St. Marks Presbyterian</td>
<td>3809 E. 3rd St</td>
<td>39</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8/29/2020</td>
<td>St. Phillips Episcopal</td>
<td>4440 N. Campbell Ave</td>
<td>21</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8/29/2020</td>
<td>St. Pius X Catholic Church</td>
<td>1800 N. Cam Pio Decimo</td>
<td>31</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/2/2020</td>
<td>Santa Cruz Lutheran</td>
<td>6809 S. Cardinal Ave</td>
<td>22</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/3/2020</td>
<td>Mexican Consulate</td>
<td>3915 E. Broadway Blvd</td>
<td>45</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/13/2020</td>
<td>St. Monica Church</td>
<td>212 W. Medina Rd</td>
<td>53</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/18/2020</td>
<td>Fred Archer Neighborhood Center</td>
<td>1665 S. La Cholla Blvd</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>COMPLETED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/19/2020</td>
<td>The Garden Kitchen</td>
<td>2205 S. 4th Ave</td>
<td>68</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/26/2020</td>
<td>Cardenas Supermarket</td>
<td>902 W. Irvington Rd</td>
<td>48</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/27/2020</td>
<td>Dunbar Pavilion</td>
<td>325 W. 2nd St</td>
<td>64</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/2/2020</td>
<td>Quincie Douglas</td>
<td>1575 E. 36th St.</td>
<td>(75)</td>
<td>PLANNED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/3/2020</td>
<td>Grace Temple Baptist Church</td>
<td>1019 E. 31st St.</td>
<td>(75)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/10/2020</td>
<td>YWCA Bonita location</td>
<td>Bonita Ave</td>
<td>(75)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/17/2020</td>
<td>Rising Star Church</td>
<td>2800 E 36th St</td>
<td>(75)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/24/2020</td>
<td>Friendship Missionary Baptist Church</td>
<td>850 N. 11th Ave</td>
<td>(75)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/27/2020</td>
<td>St. John’s Church</td>
<td>602 W Ajo Way</td>
<td>(75)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Similar efforts focusing on rural and remote communities in collaboration with DEMA have resulted in the delivery of mobile testing to the communities as far flung as Ajo, Green Valley, Catalina, Vail, as well as the Rillito, Sunnyside High School and the Rodeo Grounds. These efforts delivered 2,311 tests with a similarly low positivity rate of 1.2 percent.

**Case Investigation and Contact Tracing**

A major tool used by the Health Department to slow the spread of COVID-19 is case investigation and contact tracing. The performance of this approach is monitored using Public Health Tracking and Prevention metrics. From August 9, 2020 through August 22, 2020, 31 percent of COVID-19 cases had an initial case investigation (interview) completed within 48 hours of public health notification. Currently, 51 percent of cases have their initial assessment completed within 48 hours from September 6, 2020 through September 19,
2020, showing a significant increase in our ability to conduct case investigations in a timely manner. In addition, field staff are being deployed by Maximus into the community beginning on October 5, 2020 to increase outreach to COVID-19 cases that we have been unable to contact. These field investigators also provide education and COVID-19 support kits to contacted cases with COVID-19. Approximately 53 percent of identified contacts to cases are reached at the current time. We recommend 100 percent of those contacts to get tested for COVID-19.

In addition to referral for testing or care, our case investigation and contact tracing efforts have connected 1,239 individuals with resources including home-delivered food boxes, housing/shelters, mental health (including counseling), employer notes, medication assistance, chronic disease services, childcare information, cleaning and household supplies, PPE, financial assistance (including rent, utilities, phone bills), health insurance and benefit enrollment, transportation, legal services, and social networking opportunities.

**County Facility Wellness Checks**

The County continues to provide daily wellness checks at all County public buildings to protect the health and safety of our employees. During the week of September 19 to September 25, 31,326 wellness checks were conducted. Of those, five were reported above the body temperature threshold and were denied access to the County building to which they were seeking entry. All those denied access were members of the public seeking entry at the Adult Probation West Office and Oro Valley Library and Woods Libraries.

Over 540,000 temperature checks have been conducted since this program began with 135 persons denied access due to high temperatures. Only six of these were County employees.

**Influenza and COVID-19 Testing Sites**

Reducing influenza infections decreases the burden on the healthcare system during the pandemic. On-site vaccination clinics providing both influenza and general childhood vaccinations have been discussed with public schools. Eleven school districts have expressed interest in mobile vaccine clinics and are being scheduled for the month of October.

Community-based flu vaccination has been greatly expanded through partner contractors. This partnership allows the Health Department to direct no-cost, mobile flu vaccine services to populations and sites deemed high-risk. Examples of groups identified to receive mobile vaccine services include long-term care and assisted living residents, people experiencing homelessness, tribal members and people living in congregate settings. These services have also been paired with mobile COVID-19 test sites provided by the Health Department so community members can be vaccinated for flu and be tested for COVID-19 at a single location.
The Health Department Immunization Program has also coordinated with Federally Qualified Health Care (FQHC) partners to ensure additional Vaccine-for-Adults sufficient influenza vaccine doses are ordered and utilized throughout the community. A comprehensive and educational influenza awareness media campaign promoting the safety and efficacy of flu vaccine through radio ads, bus benches, flyers and social media is in development.

**Schools**

The County Health Department continues to work closely with the County schools and public school districts to provide support and updated information. We continue to conduct two weekly webinars for Public, Private and Charter Schools as well as public schools. The webinars provide training and guidance on local, state, and federal recommendations for hybrid and/or in-person learning. Attendance averages over 150 per week. The Health Department has also developed and implemented a more streamlined COVID-19 reporting process for schools, whereby school staff can report positive case(s) via a form on a website. A HIPAA compliant survey is then e-mailed to them gather information on the cases and their close contacts so contract tracing can be conducted.

Six trainings were held for administrators/staff of Tucson Unified School District (TUSD) about how to report positive cases to the Health Department, Sunnyside, Marana, Diocese of Tucson and Amphi have also been trained for a total of over 200 school employees. Health Department staff has also attended six school board meetings, including TUSD, Sunnyside, Catalina foothills, Marana, Tanque Verde, Diocese of Tucson as well as providing an additional update to Arizona Educators Association.

Since August, a total of 74 school-related cases (faculty, staff and students) were reported successfully using this process, and the average time to initiation of the case interview is an impressive eight hours.

**Events Involving 50 or More Persons**

Arizona Executive Order 2020-43, *Slowing the Spread of COVID-19*, prohibits organized public events of more than fifty (50) people unless the event has been approved by city, town or county in unincorporated areas, and only if adequate safety measures are implemented. Additionally, other event operators within incorporated jurisdictions have sought the formal input and assessment of the Health Department as they attempt to conduct safe and successful events. In order to properly review special event requests, detailed mitigation measures are needed to help ensure the safety of all in attendance.

An application and review process for such requests has been formalized and streamlined in response to a significant increase in the number of events requests. The process requires an event organizer to submit an Application for Special/Temporary Events of 50 or More Persons During Pandemic, along with the event’s mitigation plan for review by the Health Department. Submission must occur at least fourteen (14) days prior to the event. This new review process goes into effect this week.
Logistics

The County continues to provide personal protective equipment, hand sanitizer, masks, gloves, face shields and other equipment designed to protect individuals from COVID-19. We are continuing to acquire supplies, including KN95 masks, N95 masks, surgical masks, gloves and other essential equipment.

We are now making available over 200,000 cloth masks for distribution to students in various school districts beginning the week of October 5, 2020. As school districts begin to prepare for hybrid instruction, it is essential that the distribution of cloth masks be made to school districts which will provide students a face mask for those who do not have a face mask.

Travel Restrictions

I recently indicated that if County employees had traveled out of the Country to locations deemed to be high-risk for COVID-19 infection rates, that the employee, upon return, be required to quarantine and use their accumulated leave time. This is particularly important due to Pima County’s proximity to Mexico, in particular Sonora. Although there is an essential travel prohibition at the Border between the United States and Mexico, it is still possible for individuals to travel to Mexico’s vacation locations such as San Carlos and Puerto Peñasco. If employees choose to travel to these locations, they will be required to quarantine upon return. This action is an additional step to further safeguard the workplace for our employees. (Attachment 6)

County Mask Resolution

We will continue to advise individuals, businesses and jurisdictions that Pima County’s mask resolution has Countywide applicability.

Recent news articles from Maricopa County, report cities such as Scottsdale rescinding their mask requirement has caused some confusion. The Maricopa County mask requirement remains in place and is applicable to Scottsdale residents. The same is true for the Pima County mask resolution and its Countywide applicability. This means it applies everywhere in Pima County.

CHH/anc

Attachments

c: Jan Lesher, 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
Pima County COVID-19 Deaths, Cases, and Hospitalizations Report

Chart 1: Pima County COVID-19 cases by MMWR Week

**COVID-19 Cases by MMWR Week**

*Date of Specimen Collection

**Week 10:** 3/1/20-3/7/20 — **Week 11:** 3/8/20-3/14/20 — **Week 12:** 3/15/20-3/21/20 — **Week 13:** 3/22/20-3/28/20 — **Week 14** (Stay at Home Order): 3/29/20-4/4/20 — **Week 15:** 4/5/20-4/11/20 — **Week 16:** 4/12/20-4/18/20 — **Week 17:** 4/19/20-4/25/20 — **Week 18:** 4/26/20-5/2/20 — **Week 19:** 5/3/20-5/9/20 — **Week 20** (Stay at Home Order Lifted): 5/10/20-5/16/20 — **Week 21:** 5/17/20-5/23/20 — **Week 22** (Memorial Day): 5/24/20-5/30/20 — **Week 23:** 5/31/20-6/6/20 — **Week 24:** 6/7/20-6/13/20 — **Week 25** (Mandatory masks): 6/14/20-6/20/20 — **Week 26:** 6/21/20-6/27/20 — **Week 27:** 6/28/20-7/4/20 — **Week 28:** 7/5/20-7/11/20 — **Week 29:** 7/12/20-7/18/20 — **Week 30:** 7/19/20-7/25/20 — **Week 31:** 7/26/20-8/1/20 — **Week 32:** 8/2/20-8/8/20 — **Week 33:** 8/9/20-8/15/20 — **Week 34:** 8/16/20-8/22/20 — **Week 35:** 8/23/20-8/29/20 — **Week 36:** 8/30/20-9/5/20 — **Week 37:** 9/6/20-9/12/20 — **Week 38:** 9/13/20-9/19/20 — **Week 39:** 9/20/20-9/26/20 — **Week 40:** 9/27/20-10/3/20 — **Week 41:** 10/4/20-10/10/20

**Note:** Illnesses in the last 4-7 days may not be reported yet

Updated: 10/5/2020
*Note: Illnesses in the last 4-7 days may not be reported yet

**MMWR Weeks 39 and 40: 9/20/20 —10/3/20
Chart 3: Pima County COVID-19 deaths by date of death: March 22, 2020 to October 4, 2020

**Note:** Recent deaths may not be reported yet.
**Note:** Recent deaths may not be reported yet.
**Note:** Recent hospitalizations may not be reported yet.

**Note:** Five individuals missing specific hospitalization date information

Updated: 10/5/2020
**Chart 6:** Pima County COVID-19 hospitalizations by date of hospital admission: March 9, 2020 to October 4, 2020

**Note:** Recent hospitalizations may not be reported yet.
Chart 7: PCHD Weekly Percent (%) of COVID-Like-Illness (CLI) Visits VS Pneumonia (PNA) Visits
Chart 8: Hospital COVID-Like & Influence-Like Illness Surveillance

- % of Visits with CLI from Emergency Department (ED)
- % of Visits with CLI from Inpatient

Updated: 10/5/2020
Demographics of Pima County COVID-19 Cases by MMWR Week

Chart 1: Pima County COVID-19 Cases by Age Groups and MMWR Week

Weekly Case Breakdown:
317 Eastern Pima County (shown)
2 Mapped on Tohono O'Odham Nation (not shown)
4 in Ajo (not shown)
11 Cases Not Mapped (invalid PC address)

COVID-19
334 Cases by Test Collection Dates between September 27 and October 3

- Case Location
- Locations where Cases >= 5
See Study Area Map
COVID-19
438 Cases by Test Collection Dates
between September 20 and September 26

Case Location

Locations where Cases >= 5
See Study Area Map

Note:
24 Cases Not Mapped (invalid PC address)
Weekly Case Breakdown:
311 Eastern Pima County (shown)
8 Mapped to Post office in Sells (not shown)
2 in Ajo (not shown)
30 Cases Not Mapped (invalid PC address)

COVID-19
961 Cases by Test Collection Dates between September 13 and September 19
Weekly Case Breakdown:
311 Eastern Pima County (shown)
3 Mapped to Post office in Sells (not shown)
1 in Ajo (not shown)
1 in outlying area (not shown)
18 Cases Not Mapped (invalid PC address)

COVID-19
334 Cases by Test Collection Dates between September 6 and September 12
687 Cases by Test Collection Dates within Study Area between September 13 and September 19

- Case Location
- Locations where Cases >= 5
- Study Area

961 Total Cases for this Period
30 Cases Not Mapped (invalid PC address)
University of Arizona Greek Life Daily Testing Trends

A Healthy Pima County
Every one. Every where. Every day.
September 29, 2020

Dr. Robert Robbins, President
University of Arizona
1200 E. University Boulevard
Tucson, Arizona 85721

Re: COVID-19 Infections and the University of Arizona

Dear Dr. Robbins:

As we discussed, for the week between September 13 and September 19, there were 961 positive COVID-19 cases in Pima County. Of those 697 were at or in the immediate vicinity of the University of Arizona. Based on the proactive steps taken by the University and our public health agency to institute voluntary stay-at-home restrictions of the general area bounded by 6th Avenue, Campbell Avenue, Helen Street and 10th Street, the closing of pools, private gyms and common areas in off-campus student housing and voluntary quarantining of Greek houses, positive Countywide cases have significantly decreased to 438 cases between September 20 and September 26. More importantly, only 207 cases were in the same general University study area.

We appreciate the efforts of the University of Arizona to decrease the COVID-19 case infection rate and in facilitating our COVID-19 PCR testing for rapid identification of positive cases and appropriate isolation. We will continue our efforts to test where infections are occurring, including Greek houses and off-campus student housing.

I am concerned about some recent reports of reduced cooperation from Greek houses for COVID-19 testing and outright cancellation of scheduled testing. This is concerning because as you know, a significant proportion of cases in the dormitories are linked to activity in the Greek houses. Additionally, students appear to be shopping for COVID-19 testing with the belief that the public health agency will not find out they have a positive test in order to avoid isolation and quarantine.
At this time the following six Greek houses canceled scheduled mobile COVID-19 PCR testing:

Sigma Phi Epsilon – 1614 E. 1st Street
Zeta Beta Tau – 1702 E. 1st Street
Phi Kappa Tau – 380 N Highland Avenue
Pi Kappa Alpha – 1525 E. Drachman Street
 Gamma Phi Beta – 1535 E. 1st Street
 Pi Kappa Phi – 1449 N. Cherry Avenue

I need your assistance to reinforce the seriousness of testing, isolation, and cooperation with our public health agency to further decrease COVID-19 infections. I ask that you take those steps necessary to encourage or compel adherence with COVID-19 testing, particularly in locations where we suspect social behaviors may contribute to rapid infection spread. Should the COVID-19 infection rate significantly increase in the University area, the County will be forced to consider legal, mandated quarantine orders through a Superior Court pandemic judge.

If we are required to take these steps, we ask for your assistance and that of the University of Arizona Police Department in enforcing the quarantine order.

Sincerely,

C.H. Huckelberry
County Administrator

c: Dr. Richard Carmona, 17th Surgeon General of the United States and Distinguished Professor, University of Arizona
Jan Lesher, 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
MEMORANDUM

Date: September 29, 2020

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

Re: Travel to High Risk Areas

At this time, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) advises that “COVID-19 risk in most countries is high and travelers should avoid non-essential travel to high-risk destinations.” A map of high risk destinations can be found on the CDC website. Additional restrictions apply to individuals returning from China, Iran, Europe, UK, Ireland and Brazil. Based on the proximity to Arizona, this includes travel to any location in Mexico.

Out of an abundance of caution, employees who travel to any of the high risk areas to include certain states or international locations, are not permitted to return to work for 14 consecutive calendar days and are required to quarantine. Additionally, these individuals should monitor for fever and respiratory symptoms and get tested where symptoms are present.

If an employee travels to any high risk destination they will be required to quarantine for 14 days upon their return and are required to use their vacation time. Where the employee does not have sufficient vacation time to cover the 14-day quarantine period, the time will be unpaid.

If there are extenuating circumstances that led to the employee’s need to travel to a high risk destination, the Appointing Authority, with the approval of the County Administrator, may allow the employee to telecommute during the 14-day quarantine period, if such is feasible to accomplish the tasks assigned the employee.

Determinations on whether a state or international travel is high risk will be made by a review of CDC Travel website, as concurred by the Chief Medical Officer. As this is a fluid situation, these determinations may change over time. Therefore, it is highly recommended that before travel, employees check (before travel and before they return to work) their destination on the CDC website under the travel section.

CHH/mp

c: Jan Lesher, Chief Deputy County Administrator
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