



MEMORANDUM

Date: October 27, 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: **Mitigation Control Measures for Managing the University of Arizona September 2020 COVID-19 Outbreak**

Attached is a one-page summary of the actions taken by the County public health agency to assist the University of Arizona (UA) in managing a rapidly expanding outbreak of COVID-19 in September 2020. COVID-19 cases ballooned out of control in the three weeks between August 30 and September 19.

At one time, the UA and its environs, including student housing (on and off campus), sororities and fraternities comprised 71 percent off all COVID-19 infections for one week in Pima County. A total of 697 infections occurred at the UA, while only 264 occurred in the balance of the community between September 13 and September 19. Positivity rates ranged from 17 to 22 percent and over 400 students were housed in isolation dorms.

The County's public health agency worked closely with the leadership of the UA to implement disease control and mitigation measures which reduced the seven day total infections to 10 and now, only 4 COVID-19 cases in the latest reported week.

The management, containment and control of this COVID-19 infection outbreak at the UA is a textbook example of how proper mitigation measures, if faithfully executed, can dramatically alter the projected outcome of an infectious disease outbreak.

Our public health staff is to be commended on their quick and decisive actions to contain this serious and accelerating infection outbreak in cooperation with UA officials.

CHH/anc

Attachment

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

Disease Control Measures for University of Arizona's September 2020 COVID-19 Outbreak

University of Arizona ~ 45,000 students, 12,700 on campus currently

City: Tucson

County: Pima

Overview

COVID-19 is highly contagious and is spread primarily through person-to-person contact. The University of Arizona began the fall semester on August 24 with approximately 12,700 students on campus. Initially, mostly classes were remote with in person classes for only essential courses. Students in on-campus/dorm housing were tested upon arrival and any positive cases were transferred to isolation housing. While many students and members of the community complied with the public health recommendations promulgated by the University of Arizona and Pima County Health Department to prevent transmission, the number of confirmed COVID-19 infections within the student community spiked significantly over three weeks between August 30 and September 19, creating an urgent situation for the University and the community. During the peak week, 687 new cases occurred within the vicinity of the University (71 percent of the total new cases for Pima County for that week), some on campus dorms and off campus housing experienced 17% to 22% positivity rates, and over 400 students were in the isolation dorm. In response, the Pima County Health Department worked closely with leadership at the University of Arizona to successfully implement disease control measures, reducing the 7-day total to ten (10) new cases in on campus dorms and Greek houses (considered off-campus) as reported on October 8.

Disease Control Measures Implemented or Initiated by Pima County Health Department

1. **Mobile Testing and education** for off-campus students and surrounding neighborhoods
2. Proposed and supported use of **isolation dorm for off campus students**
3. Development, concurrence and implementation of **14-day shelter in place self-quarantine for all on campus housing and all off campus student oriented housing** with more than 10 residents in set geographic area (September 14-28)
4. **Closure of pools and spas, recreation and fitness areas, and prohibition of gathering of more than 10 individuals**, for all off campus student oriented housing with more than 10 residents in set geographic area for 14 days (September 14-28)
5. Implemented **voluntary quarantine of Sorority and Fraternity houses** as early as August 28 for houses with more than 10% positive cases, which included evaluating safe food preparation and housekeeping needs, ongoing monitoring and decisions about release from quarantine.
6. **Mobile testing, education and evaluation** of testing results in greek housing, off campus student apartments and neighborhoods surrounding the University.
7. Guidance to UArizona about **contact tracing, case investigation**
8. Ongoing **enforcement of restaurant opening, bar closing and mask wearing** in vicinity of UArizona
9. Ongoing **surveillance of cases** on and off campus
10. Ongoing collaboration with UArizona and CDC for **data evaluation**
11. Participation and membership in
 - a. UArizona Public Health Advisory Committee
 - b. UArizona COVID19 athletic advisory group
12. Ongoing collaboration with UArizona's Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health