COVID-19 Pandemic
(July 2021 Update)

El Rio Health’s priority is the health and safety of its patients, community partners and employees. During this time of global pandemic, El Rio has taken numerous steps in order to protect all. COVID-19 is an emerging, rapidly evolving situation and our Incident Command Team meets regularly to review guidance and implement necessary change in order to protect the community. Below is a summary of some actions El Rio has taken as a result of the current healthcare crisis:

For Patients:
- Currently, El Rio encourages our patients to limit their visit to our health centers to themselves, without bringing visitors, if possible. We continue to offer virtual visits for those medical and behavioral health patients who qualify.
- El Rio requires all patients and visitors to wear a face covering over their nose and mouth. A face mask will be provided to those without one.
- El Rio continues to provide health screenings upon entry to our health centers and additional sanitizing opportunities throughout the health centers.
- Social distancing of at least six feet whenever possible is encouraged.
- All patients and their companions, over the age of twelve years, are offered a COVID-19 vaccination when visiting a health center. Patients do not need an appointment and may walk into any health center facility during normal business hours to receive a vaccine.

For Employees:
- El Rio follows all CDC guidelines for personal protective equipment (PPE) while inside and outside of our health centers. For more information, please visit www.cdc.gov.
- For those employees who are able to work remotely, El Rio has offered them a work-at-home option.
- El Rio has suspended all unnecessary business travel.
- Employees follow rigorous hand hygiene protocol and social distancing, as recommended by the CDC and WHO.
- El Rio offers all employees the opportunity to receive a COVID-19 vaccination. As of July 2021, El Rio has vaccinated approximately 80% of all employees.

For Community Partners:
- El Rio is involved in many outreach activities with community partners. These include, but are not limited to, health screenings, vaccinations and virus testing. As such, El Rio employees follow all CDC guidelines for PPE and hand hygiene while participating in any outreach activity.

These actions only begin to highlight the steps El Rio has taken in order to protect the community and care for the many patients who call El Rio their health home. El Rio is a trusted partner of Pima County Health Department and a key player in their County Emergency Preparedness Plan. Updates continue to be made as additional information is received.

For additional information and answers to frequently asked questions, please visit our COVID-19 page on our website – www.elrio.org/covid19/.