



## Public Health Advisory Update COVID-19

Updated February 2, 2021

This is a rapidly evolving situation. Public Health Information will be updated weekly and more frequently when critical new information and recommendations are needed.

The Pima County Health Department (PCHD) is committed to ensuring that our community in 2021 is able to resume enjoying the variety of activities previously experienced before the pandemic. This update to the January 7, 2021 Public Health Advisory provides the current status of the pandemic in Pima County, including vaccinations, and provides recommendations to reduce the effects of COVID-19. The Department will continue to provide Public Health Advisory Updates that are informed by an analysis of increasing data and knowledge about COVID-19.

### What we know

COVID-19 is highly contagious and spreads primarily through person-to-person contact. Since late November 2020, PCHD has identified an accelerated transmission of COVID-19 throughout Pima County. In December, 33,159 COVID-19 cases were diagnosed. This number is greater than the number of cases that were diagnosed in Pima County during the eight months from March through October. Overall, there have been 102,320 COVID-19 cases diagnosed in Pima County since the beginning of the pandemic.

Deaths due to COVID19 have accelerated since December, with **over one out of every 600 residents of Pima County dead due to COVID-19**. The high number of infections as well as patients who are seriously ill continues to affect the availability of hospital beds in Pima County. Significant community and individual adherence to mitigation recommendations has the potential to decrease the projected illness and death in our county population.

### COVID-19 Immunization Update

#### Current Status

- PCHD is on target to surpass our established goal of 300,000 immunizations by at least 50% with anticipation of over 450,000 immunizations given by March 31, 2021 as long as vaccine availability continues.
- As of February 1, 2021, over 113,000 COVID-19 vaccines have been given in Pima County through five PODs at Banner North, Banner South, Tucson Convention Center, University of Arizona and TMC as well as additional health care facilities. This reflects our ability to deliver approximately 35,000 vaccinations on a weekly basis. Further information is available at: [www.pima.gov/covid19vaccine](http://www.pima.gov/covid19vaccine).
- PCHD has committed to the implementation of the rural vaccination strategy as well as mobile points of distribution for vulnerable populations and will begin this work during the week of February 1, 2021.
- PCHD continues to work with AzDHS to highlight our vaccine administration ability and our need for additional vaccine allocation to meet our accelerated distribution ability and our state goals.

### Therapeutics Update

#### Current Status

- Monoclonal Antibodies (mABs) are increasingly available in Pima County at multiple hospital-based locations. Use of mABs within five days of diagnosis for appropriate patients has the potential to significantly reduce hospitalization and mortality. Providers and patients are encouraged to consider the use of mABs as a therapeutic intervention when appropriate. Go to [pima.gov/covid19mab](http://pima.gov/covid19mab) for more information.

## Continued Actions and Vigilance

### Public Health Recommendations: Curfew and Shelter-in-Place

- **Compliance with voluntary curfew from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m.** – An injunction by the Pima County Superior Court is preventing the Department from enforcing [Pima County Resolution 2020-98](#), the County's 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. curfew. Therefore, the department is resuming its request that all residents and businesses voluntarily curfew during that time. All residents should consider limiting travel during these hours to essential activities as previously defined in the curfew announcement.

- **Voluntary Shelter in Place** – All residents should stay home as the best way to prevent the risk of COVID-19; trips and activities outside the home should be minimized. Exceptions for this stay-at-home recommendation involve the following activities: seeking medical care, purchasing food/supplies for home consumption or use, outdoor exercise, pet care, connecting with homeless or domestic violence shelters, and attending work or school.
- **Voluntary Shelter in Place for Older Adults and Individuals with Serious Underlying Medical Conditions** – Older adults (those age 65 or older) and individuals with serious underlying medical conditions (including immunocompromised state, chronic kidney disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, obesity, serious heart conditions, sickle cell disease, and diabetes) are strongly urged to stay in their places of residence except to access critical necessities such as food and medicine.
- **Physical Distancing Requirements** – When outside their place of residence, all individuals should strictly comply with the following requirements to the maximum extent possible:
  - Maintain at least six feet of distance from individuals who are not part of their household;
  - Wear a face covering whether inside or outdoors when around others;
  - Frequently wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or use hand sanitizer;
  - Covering their coughs and sneezes with a tissue or fabric or, if not possible, into their sleeve or elbow (but not into hands); and
  - Avoiding all contact with anyone outside their household when sick with a fever, cough, or other COVID-19 symptoms.
- **Face Covering Requirements** – As mandated by the Board of Supervisors, [Resolution 2020-96](#), face coverings must be worn at all times;
  1. When indoors and not in one's own residence or if indoors but unable to maintain 6 feet distance from individuals who are not members of the household.
  2. Whenever outdoors and within six feet of anyone outside one's own household.
- **Limitations on Gatherings** – Public and private gatherings of individuals from separate household's remains strongly discouraged because it carries significant risk of spreading COVID-19. Indoor gatherings are particularly risky, and gatherings should be held outdoors wherever possible. **Limit gatherings to ten or fewer people.**
- **Childcare and pre-kindergarten facilities** – In accordance with State guidelines, these facilities may remain open based at their current level of activity.
- **Continued Mandatory Reporting Regarding school employees, students, and business workers contracting COVID-19** – Schools, businesses and governmental entities continue to ask their employees or students to alert their organization if they test positive for COVID-19 and were present in the workplace or school within the 48 hours prior to onset of symptoms or within 48 hours of the date on which they were tested. Organizations should instruct employees, staff or students to follow isolation and quarantine protocols specified by the County, and exclude positive cases and close contacts from the organization during the isolation or quarantine periods. This information has been and will continue to be used to provide evaluation and mitigation support to the organization that has submitted the report.

### **Businesses Recommendations**

**All businesses including restaurants, retail or those in critical infrastructure sectors, are strongly encouraged to follow the following recommendations during this period of accelerated transmission:**

- If the business is allowed to operate under current state and county rules:
  - Limit indoor occupancy to no more than 25% of their total occupancy, including personnel. Businesses must oversee entry and exit to ensure that maximum capacity is not exceeded.
  - Follow industry-specific guidance related to COVID 19 mitigation plans.
  - Maximize the number of personnel who work from home.
- Retailers are encouraged to designate hours of operation for specific at-risk populations including those over 65 and those who are immune compromised. Businesses are encouraged to provide curbside operations.
- Restaurants and other food service facilities may operate for takeout, delivery and curbside pickup. Persons in an establishment to pick-up a takeout order do not count towards the 25% indoor occupancy limitation, but those persons must follow all other requirements, including proper physical distancing.
- Outdoor recreational facilities may continue as long as group activities are limited to household members.
- Medical facilities may continue to provide non-urgent medical and dental care.
- The following businesses and activities should consider temporary closure to decrease viral transmission:
  - Indoor playgrounds and recreational facilities including indoor swimming pools.
  - Fitness and dance studios except when all classes are outside, participants wear face coverings at all times, and physical distance of at least six feet can be maintained.
  - Hair salons and barbershops.

- Movie theaters (except that outdoor screenings are allowed if physical distance of at least six feet can be maintained).

### **Moving to a Resilient Community Normal**

PCHD is working to build infrastructure that supports a stronger community, using the lessons learned from our response to the COVID-19 Pandemic:

- Commitment to advancing health equity through implementation of Health in All Policies.
- Enhanced public health infrastructure including case investigation and contact tracing and ongoing coordination with the clinical community.
- Provision of ongoing support to individuals and families who are currently in isolation due to COVID-19 or quarantining due to being a contact with a person with COVID-19.

PCHD recognizes the ongoing strain associated with the COVID-19 pandemic on individual lives as well as our educational institutions, businesses and community. We are currently in an accelerated phase of vaccination where we will soon reach 150,000 vaccinations resulting in the ability to decrease transmission of COVID-19 and improve community wellness. PCHD remains grateful for the County residents' cooperation and patience during the last 12 months.