



Public Health Advisory COVID-19
2021-07
April 21, 2021

The Pima County Health Department (PCHD) is committed to ensure that the community is protected from COVID -19.

As undocumented noncitizens entering Arizona communities without going through an established U.S. Port of Entry do not receive COVID-19 testing prior to their entry into the U.S.; and

As there is significant concern by Arizona Public Health officials that the COVID-19 Pandemic is a threat to Arizona communities; and

As there are numerous serious and deadly variants of COVID-19, that at this time are not prevalent within Arizona, but are more prevalent in other Nations; and

As undocumented noncitizens face significantly higher COVID-19 case fatality-death ratios, early detection is critical to life safety: and

As per CDC guidance, the best initial defenses against communicating COVID-19 and its variants, is to "mask up," identify and quarantine those individuals who have COVID-19 or are reasonably known to have been exposed to a "COVID positive" individual, and when possible administer appropriate COVID-19 vaccines to the public; and

As contact tracing with undocumented noncitizens is difficult at best and contact tracing resources are limited, early detection is critical in maximizing available resources, and

As testing helps inform and prepare healthcare systems in advance to best mitigate the medical surge anticipated due to the expected surge of undocumented noncitizens into Arizona, and

As the ability to identify COVID positive individuals and people that have been exposed among peoples who, prior to entry within the U.S. have limited or no access to medical care and are traditionally reluctant to seek medical care and/or assessment by governmental agencies;

I, as the County Public Health Director of Pima County, in order to keep our communities safe and reduce the effects of COVID-19 and its variants, am issuing a Public Health Declaration reinforcing the need for COVID-19 testing to be made available to all undocumented noncitizens who have entered the U.S. without going through an established U.S. Port of Entry, in order to be identified for further quarantine measures, to include non-congregate sheltering, based upon testing results, and reduce the risk to our communities.

Theresa Cullen, MD, MS
Health Department Director

April 28, 2021
Date