COVID-19 TOWN HALL

April 29, 2020
KAM GANDHI
Executive Director
AZ Board of Pharmacy
BOARD OF PHARMACY UPDATE

- FAQ’S
- Submit ?’s
- COVID Task Force Update
Cases by State

18 states report more than 10,000 cases of COVID-19.

AZ
Cases: 6948
Deaths: 293
Pharmacist accounts for the majority of 'I am a:'.

'Practice Setting:': Health System and Community-Retail appear most often.
**COVID SURVEY**

**'Please check all that apply to you':** None of the above and I am working from home appear most often.

- None of the above
- I am working from home
- My hours have been reduced

**'Please check all that apply to your organization':** None of the above and Allow employees to work from home appear most often.

- None of the above
- Reduced employee hours|Allow employees to...
- Reduced business hours|Reduced employee...
- Reduced employee hours|Laid off...
- Reduced business hours|Allow employees to...
- Reduced employee hours|Laid off...
- Allow employees to work from home|None of...
Legislative Update

- 4/21/20: Speaker Bowers and President Fann jointly announced that the legislature would reconvene on Friday, May 1st to adjourn the legislative session *sine die* without further consideration of bills.

- 4/22/20: After a closed caucus meeting, Speaker Bowers announced that the plan outlined just a day before was called off after “a *substantive majority of my members have expressed a strong desire to return and finished the work of the legislative session.*” President Fann confirmed that the Senate is continuing conversations with its members to determine how to best move forward.

- Both the date of the legislature’s return and the manner in which they will address outstanding legislation remains unknown.
Governor Ducey’s stay-at-home order is set to expire this Friday.

He has said his office plans to follow the White House’s guidance on phased reopening and that decisions made to reopen Arizona will be driven by data and public health-focused and outlined the three possible courses of action:
1. let it expire
2. extend the order as it is
3. extend the order with modifications

At least one modification was announced regarding elective surgeries in hospitals and surgery centers that can demonstrate adequate capacity to resume on May 1st.
On April 22, 2020, Governor Ducey issued Executive Order 2020-32, Requesting Exemption from E.O. 2020-10. In response, ADHS has established minimum criteria to resume elective, non-essential surgeries that hospitals, healthcare facilities, and providers (including dental surgery providers) must demonstrate in a request for exemption from E.O. 2020-10.

- Entities wishing to receive an exemption will need to complete an attestation form.

Note: A hospital, healthcare facility or provider who has received an exemption from E.O. 2020-10 is NOT eligible to request or receive PPE distributed by the state or county health departments.
Uninsured Testing-AHCCCS

- AHCCCS is among one of the first states to opt to create the new Medicaid eligibility group as allowed under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA), and as approved by CMS in the state’s Disaster Relief State Plan Amendment (SPA).

- AHCCCS registered providers will be able to submit claims for uninsured testing and testing related services to the AHCCCS Division of Fee for Service Management in the near future. More information about the effective date and operational processes will be forthcoming.

- Covered services for individuals under the uninsured COVID-19 testing eligibility group are limited to medical assistance for:
  - In vitro diagnostic testing (and administration of that testing), and
  - COVID-19 testing-related services furnished during a provider visit related to such testing.
  - COVID-19 testing-related services do not include services for the treatment of COVID-19.

AzPA is in communication with AHCCCS about this and will keep you updated once we have the details!
ADHS Expands Testing Criteria

- **Expands the criteria for testing to anyone who thinks they have been exposed to and could be infected with COVID-19.** Previously, this order was limited to high-risk individuals and those with specific symptoms.

- **Note:** This is different than current [CDC recommendations](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html) however CDC is encouraging Health Department to open up testing as they see fit based on test availability.

![Priorities for COVID-19 Testing](priorities.png)
“Testing Blitz”

- 4/27/20 - ADHS announced “testing blitz”
- Aims to test 10,000-20,000 Arizonans for COVID-19 every Saturday for three consecutive weeks, beginning Saturday, May 2, 2020
▪ Maricopa County Public Health updated their COVID Guidance for Behavioral Health Facilities on 4-24-20

Patients Experiencing Homelessness

- Triage Line for people experiencing homelessness who are COVID-19 positive or under investigation

- Call the 24/7 Triage Hotline at 623-643-9689 to request a transport van for a person suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19 who is:
  - Cleared for discharge;
  - Confirmed to be homeless and does not have a social support system to discharge to; and
  - In need of shelter for isolation

- Transportation is available Monday-Sunday from 6AM to 10PM
CDC Adds Six More Symptoms to COVID-19

Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. People with these symptoms or combinations of symptoms may have COVID-19:

- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing

Or at least two of these symptoms:

- Fever
- Chills
- Repeated shaking with chills (rigors)
- Muscle pain
- Headache
- Sore throat
- New loss of taste or smell

Note: Nasal congestion and runny nose less likely to be related to COVID-19
Retailers Expand Coronavirus Testing

- Executives from CVS Health, Walgreens, Walmart, Rite Aid and other companies joined President Donald Trump Monday at the White House to announce the next phase of testing for COVID-19.

- The companies laid out their plans, but some cautioned their timing and ability to ramp up will depend on having adequate supplies and lab capacity.

Currently:
- Walmart has 20 testing sites
- Walgreens has 18 locations across 11 states
- CVS has five sites across five states

(READ MORE)
Plasma Donations for COVID-19 +

- If you have patients who have recovered from COVID-19, consider encouraging them to donate plasma. The plasma of those who have recovered from the virus is now rich with COVID-19 antibodies. This plasma, known as convalescent plasma, could potentially be used to treat patients who are fighting the infection.

- Visit this COVID-19 plasma website to find the location of an accredited AABB blood donation site or for more information.
COVID Testing FAQ’s

- State Authority
- Collection sites vs POC Testing
- Serology Testing
- CLIA Waivers
- Billing? Insurance Coverage

We plan to have Part 1 of the COVID-19: Pharmacist Testing CE Program available to everyone by Friday.
Questions?