



April 29, 2020

COVID-19 TOWN HALL

KAM GANDHI

Executive Director
AZ Board of Pharmacy

BOARD OF PHARMACY UPDATE

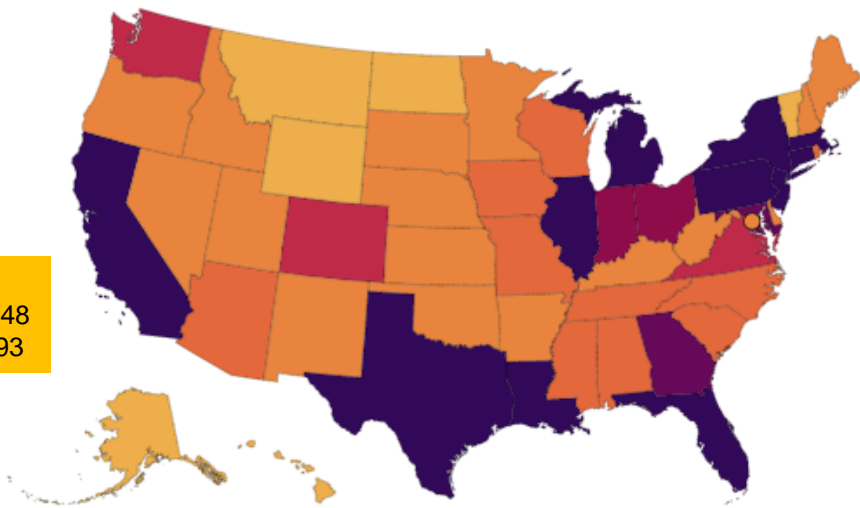
- [FAQ'S](#)
- [Submit ?'s](#)
- COVID Task Force Update

KELLY FINE

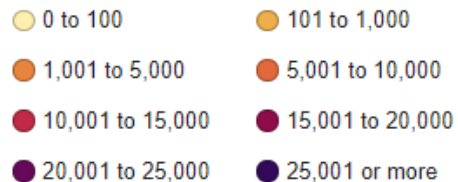
Executive Director
AzPA

Cases by State

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



Reported Cases



AZ
Cases: 6948
Deaths: 293

Other U.S. Jurisdictions AS GU MH FM MP PW PR VI

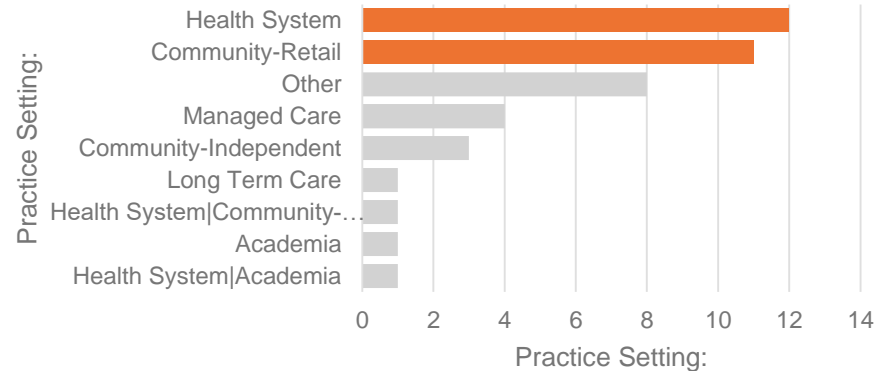


COVID SURVEY

Pharmacist accounts for the majority of 'I am a:'.

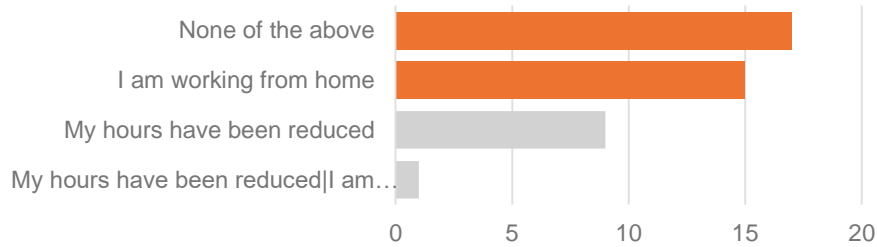


'Practice Setting:': Health System and Community-Retail appear most often.

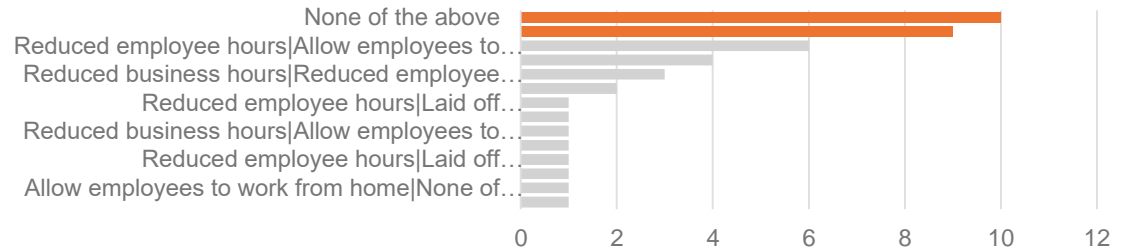


COVID SURVEY

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



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



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.

Reopening Arizona

- 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.

Executive Order 2020-32

Elective Surgeries Exemption Request from

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.**

[CLICK HERE](#)

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](#) however CDC is encouraging Health Department to open up testing as they see fit based on test availability.

PRIORITIES FOR COVID-19 TESTING (Nucleic Acid or Antigen)

High Priority

- Hospitalized patients
- Healthcare facility workers, workers in congregate living settings, and first responders **with** symptoms
- Residents in long-term care facilities or other congregate living settings, including prisons and shelters, **with** symptoms
- Persons identified through public health cluster and selected contact investigations

Priority

- Persons **with** symptoms of potential COVID-19 infection, including: fever, cough, shortness of breath, chills, muscle pain, new loss of taste or smell, vomiting or diarrhea and/or sore throat
- Persons **without** symptoms who are prioritized by health departments or clinicians, for any reason, including but not limited to: public health monitoring, sentinel surveillance, or screening of other asymptomatic individuals according to state and local plans.

“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
- <https://www.maricopa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/60019/Behavioral-Health-Guidance?bidId=>

COVID-19 Guidance Behavioral Health Residential Settings (Updated 4/24/20)

A new respiratory disease – coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) – is spreading globally and there is community spread in the United States, including in Arizona. Behavioral Health facilities should assume COVID-19 is in their community and restrict all non-essential visitors to their facilities.

We strongly recommend that all residential substance use settings review and update their emergency plans and consider ways to continue essential services if onsite operations must be reduced temporarily.

Please check [Maricopa.gov/covid19](https://www.maricopa.gov/covid19) regularly for updates and news related to COVID-19.

General Information

COVID-19 is caused by a virus that has never been seen in humans before. In some ways it is like other viruses we have seen, but there are important factors that set it apart:

- Since it has never infected humans before, none of us are immune to it
- It can be spread from person to person more easily than some other viruses
- It can be spread by someone who doesn't have any symptoms and has no idea they are infected.
- While it causes mild or moderate symptoms in most people, it can be very serious and even fatal for people in [high-risk groups](#).

Most clients with mild to moderate symptoms can be managed in a residential substance use setting. Some clients will need to be hospitalized during their illness.

Symptoms consistent with COVID-19

COVID-19 causes symptoms consistent with a respiratory illness. The most common symptoms include:

- Cough
- Fever
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing

Other symptoms can include:

- Sore throat
- Muscle aches
- Runny nose
- Congestion
- Fatigue
- Loss of taste and smell

Prevent the introduction of respiratory germs INTO your facility:

Ill visitors and healthcare personnel (HCP) are the most likely sources of introduction of COVID-19 into a facility. MCDPH and CDC recommends aggressive visitor restrictions and enforcing sick leave policies for ill staff, even before COVID-19 is identified in the facility or among a visitor.

- **Restrict visitation** except for extenuating circumstances on a case-by-case basis.

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 congestions and runny nose less likely to be related to COVID-19

[CLICK HERE](#)

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?