COVID Epidemiology Situation Update

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December 17, 2020
Summary

- Today's statewide case count is 5,817 with 3,548 cases (61%) in Maricopa County, slightly higher than population distribution. The 7-day average for reported cases is now 6,787.
- The epi curve continues to increase in Maricopa County and statewide with continued exponential growth exceeding the previous wave in Arizona. Peak cases by incident date is 7,823 on 11/30.
- Due to significant irregularities in ADHS data reporting patterns, 7-day average positivity is more reliable than day-to-day positivity. 7-day average positivity has remained above 30% for more than a week, indicating sustained uncontrolled spread.
- Hospital utilization continues to increase with remaining bed capacity lower than at any time since the start of the pandemic. Bed usage for COVID-19 is at 45% of inpatient beds (highest number of COVID-occupied beds at any point during the pandemic) and 51% of ICU beds statewide. Current hospital utilization is 93% for inpatient beds and 92% for ICU beds including COVID and non-COVID utilization. This is the highest level of hospital occupancy with the lowest level of remaining hospital capacity statewide at any point since the beginning of the pandemic. After a few days of dropping numbers, ED visits for COVID have rebounded and remain at levels similar to the peak of the first wave in June/July. Hospitals statewide are experiencing extreme shortages in bed space and staff.
- Phase 1A vaccine administration began today for healthcare workers including first responders in Maricopa County.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>December 17, 2020</th>
<th>Statewide</th>
<th>Maricopa</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Reported Today</td>
<td>Cumulative</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cases</td>
<td>5,817</td>
<td>435,036</td>
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<tr>
<td>PCR Tests</td>
<td>22,754</td>
<td>2,583,394</td>
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<tr>
<td>% Positive</td>
<td>25.6%</td>
<td>16.8%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hospitalizations</td>
<td>383</td>
<td>31,851</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deaths</td>
<td>147</td>
<td>7,677</td>
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All data pulled from azdhs.gov. Numbers may not match Maricopa county data.
Maricopa County Analysis
Due to the holiday, 2 days of data were held (Nov 26 & 27) and reported on Nov 28.
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Maricopa County Daily COVID-19 Deaths by Date of Death
(Epi Curve)

Deaths (Daily)  Deaths (7-d average)
Arizona Statewide Analysis
Epidemiology
Arizona Statewide Daily COVID-19 Hospitalizations by Date of Hospitalization
(Epi Curve)
Hospital Usage
Where blue bars are below zero, COVID ED patients exceeded total reported ED bed usage.