COVID Epidemiology Situation Update

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Summary

- Today’s statewide case count is 5,321 with 3,763 cases (70%) in Maricopa County, higher than population distribution. The 7-day average for reported cases has dropped to 6,944. High variance in daily case reporting persists since early December.
- The epi curve no longer appears to be rising in Maricopa County and statewide. While case counts appear to be significantly lower than the ongoing surge reported by ER facilities, the data now show a clear declining trend. Peak cases by incident date remains 1/4.
- 7-day average positivity has remained above 30% for over 6 weeks indicating sustained levels of substantial spread with low testing volume for the burden of infection in the community.
- Hospital utilization appears to be declining overall with a plateau in ICU bed usage and ER visits for COVID-19, though still clearly in a near-saturated state, significantly higher than at peak levels during Arizona’s previous surge in July 2020. Bed usage for COVID-19 is 49% of inpatient beds and 57% of ICU beds statewide. Current hospital utilization is 90% for inpatient beds and 91% for ICU beds including COVID and non-COVID utilization. Hospitals statewide continue to experience significant shortages in both physical and personnel resources.
- Hospitalization rates continue to show a concerning downward trend with increasing hospitalization death rates, both indicative of hospital resource overload.
Maricopa County Analysis
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Arizona Statewide Analysis
Epidemiology
Arizona Statewide Daily COVID-19 Cases by Date of Sample Collection 
(Epi Curve)
Hospital Usage
Where blue bars are below zero, COVID ED patients exceeded total reported ED bed usage