COVID Epidemiology Situation Update

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Summary

Today’s statewide case count is 1,143 with 583 cases (60%) in Maricopa County, slightly lower than population distribution. The 7-day average for reported cases has fallen to 1,584, similar early November at the beginning of the most recent surge.

The epi curve continues to fall in Maricopa County and statewide. Peak cases by incident date remains 1/4.

7-day average positivity has remained below 30% for more than two weeks.

Overall hospital utilization continues to decline slowly and is now at levels similar to mid-November whereas case counts are similar to early-November levels. There was no similar temporal disparity in the decline phase from the June-July surge. The current disparity suggests an overall decline in testing behaviors – and thus diagnosed mild COVID-19 cases – in the general public.

Bed usage for COVID-19 is 21% of inpatient beds and 32% of ICU beds statewide. Current hospital utilization is 89% for inpatient beds and 86% for ICU beds including COVID and non-COVID utilization.

Despite declining hospital utilization, hospital death rates continue to increase with stable hospitalization rates for COVID cases, indicating the higher acuity of patients admitted to the hospital compared to earlier in the pandemic.

COVID-19 has become the leading cause of death in Arizona in a 12-month period. Note that deaths are generally not reported on Mondays.
Maricopa County Analysis
Due to the holidays, multiple days of data were held (Nov 11, 26 & 27; December 25, January 1 & 18) and reported on the next business day.
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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.