



#MaskUpAZ

Local governments granted authority to issue mask policy

Amid a surge of new COVID-19 cases across the state, Governor Ducey issued an executive order to enhance containment of the spread and protecting Arizona's most vulnerable residents. Among the provisions announced in the executive order, Ducey granted authority to local governments to make wearing face masks in public mandatory when physical distancing isn't possible. There still is no statewide requirement to wear masks, and it will be up to local governments to implement guidance and enforcement. Several major cities in Maricopa County have now adopted major mask requirements. Additionally, the Governor's order seeks to boost testing, expand contact tracing, secure PPE for health care and frontline workers and fast-track resources to the most affected areas.

The executive order includes the follow actions:

- Continue to boost diagnostic testing and expand rapid testing capability.
- Amplify contact tracing in partnership with counties, including utilizing National Guard assets and providing additional resources to counties.
- Increase awareness of state and CDC distancing and face-covering guidelines, including authorization for local governments to implement enhanced mitigation measures.
- Continue to focus on long-term care settings, including providing \$10 million for additional PPE and face masks for workers.
- Enhance guidance for establishments to limit congregating and enforce mitigation policies.

Since the beginning of this month, COVID-19 cases statewide have rapidly increased by 147% and recently Arizona Department of Health Services (AZDHS) officials reported a single day record of 3,246 cases – the highest number of COVID-19 cases since the pandemic began. Statewide, hospitals are at 85% capacity and ventilator use is also at its highest, with the most recent figures being 44 percent higher than those before June. A previous executive order signed in March provides that if hospital capacity exceeds 80%, all elective surgeries would be halted to preserve space. AZDHS Director Christ stated that the department hasn't yet required a halt as it review the capacity reports.

To review the executive order issued by Governor Ducey, click [here](#).

JLBC releases June report

In April, Joint Legislative Budget Council (JLBC) predicted a \$1.1 billion shortfall

in FY2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic but after a most recent report, analysts revised their projections to a \$700 million deficit. According to JLBC Director Stavneak, officials expect to end this fiscal year with a \$190 million shortfall, and add another \$518 million shortfall by the end of FY21. The FY21 ending balance could be anywhere from \$0 to a \$1 billion shortfall although that number does not include the state's \$1 billion rainy day fund. To read the entire JLBC June update click [here](#).

Teachers ready to return to classrooms

A new survey conducted by Expect More Arizona received 11,000 responses from teachers across the state as schools prepare to reopen in August. The survey assessed how the COVID-19 pandemic impacted teaching and concerns surrounding the upcoming school year. The survey found that 79% of teachers are planning to return to the classroom and 18% remain unsure if they are going to return. Two-thirds of respondents shared that the pandemic did not influence their decision to go back to the classroom, but more than half are concerned or very concerned about health and safety. Teachers surveyed overwhelmingly stated that in order to feel comfortable returning to campus they want clear protocols in place for staff, parents and students, daily professional cleaning, strict sanitation procedures and access to cleaning products. To view the complete survey click [here](#).

First-time unemployment claims set record

New data released by the Arizona Department of Economic Security (AZDES) indicate that nearly 150,000 Arizona residents filed first-time unemployment claims last week, a new weekly record for the state. The data shows the number of first-time claims filed for the week ending June 13 rose by 26,000 when compared to the previous week. The week ending April 4 was the highest number of unemployment claims previously, with a total of 132,000 first-time claims filed that week. The number of continuing unemployment claims also rose last week by nearly 500,000, to 1.4 million. Information about unemployment services click [here](#).

Democrats challenge mail-in ballot rule

Top democrat officials filed a lawsuit against the Arizona Secretary of State and county election officials disputing a rule that would automatically disqualify ballots that do not have signatures instead of giving voters time to correct the omission. Attorneys representing the Democratic National Committee, Arizona Democratic Party and Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee seek the relief of requiring Secretary of State Hobbs to give voters five business days after the federal elections to fix ballots without signatures. The groups argue that if not overturned, the rule could lead to thousands of ballots not being counted in the upcoming November election. The U.S. District Court of Arizona has scheduled a phone conference for the case on June 23rd.

HUD allocates funding to aid homeless

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced that it will provide \$2.96 billion in the remaining Emergency Solutions Grants funding to aid homeless Americans and people at risk of becoming homeless because of hardships such as job loss, wage reduction or illness due to COVID-19. The \$2.96 billion in emergency funding can be used for a variety of purposes, including making more emergency shelters available for homeless individuals and families; operating emergency shelters; providing hotel/motel vouchers for homeless families and individuals; and providing essential services to people experiencing homelessness including childcare, education services, employment assistance, outpatient health services, legal services, mental health services, substance abuse treatment services, and transportation.

In total, Arizona has received \$200 million in COVID-19 related funding dedicated to this purpose. According to Arizona Department of Housing Director Carol Ditmore, local governments that want to receive a part of the allocated amount must provide a plan detailing how they will use the funding.



Governor Ducey Provides COVID-19 Update



Arizona Update on Issues



[Click here to find COVID-19 resources and volunteer opportunities](#)

[Click here to find out how to donate a mobile hotspot](#)

Upcoming Legislators' Birthdays



Happy Birthday
Sen. Ugenti-Rita (R)
Sunday, June 28th

Representing LD23, Senator Ugenti-Rita was first elected to the Legislature in 2011. A former commercial real estate agent, she received her B.S. in business administration from ASU. At the Legislature, Ugenti-Rita serves as Chairman of Senate Commerce and is a member of both the Appropriations and Finance committees. Her top legislative priority this session was SB1274 (Chapter 75) which requires that regulatory boards and commissions transition to having public



Happy Birthday Rep.
Powers Hannley (D)
Tuesday, June 30th

Representing LD9, Representative Powers Hannley was first elected to the Legislature in 2016. A resident of Tucson since 1981, she is the former Program Director and Principal Investigator for the Arizona Smokers Helpline and related Internet and evaluation services and former Managing Editor of the American Journal of Medicine. At the Legislature, she serves on the committees of Health, Regulatory Affairs and Ways and Means. This session her top legislative priority was

members as majority membership. This change will ensure that industry experts remain on the board, but that unbiased public members have more influence on the outcome of board decisions. The bill was signed by the Governor and chaptered into law. To wish Senator Ugenti-Rita happy birthday: mugenti-rita@azleg.gov

HB2582 which would have permitted a patient to make a written request for medication to end his or her life. Additionally, it issued provisions to require the request to be signed and witnessed by at least two persons who meet specified requirements. To wish Representative Powers Hannley happy birthday: ppowershannley@azleg.gov

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