

Arizona COVID-19 cases

The Arizona Department of Health Services has reported 148,683 positive COVID-19 cases and 98,988 cases in Maricopa County as of July 21, 2020. Out of the 1,019,120 COVID-19 tests completed to date in Arizona, 12.4% have tested positive for the virus. Percent positive is the number of people with a positive test result, out of all the people COVID-19 tested completed in Arizona.

In Maricopa County, 3,850 patients (4%) have been admitted to a hospital and 801 (1%) admitted to an ICU since the county began collecting data on Jan. 22. People aged 65 or older or those who have at least one chronic health condition make up 72% of those who have been hospitalized and 85% of deaths for COVID-19. Nearly 65% of all COVID-19 infections reported have been among those under 45 years old.

'Old' PTO hours sellback opportunity

As you are aware, when we announced our transition to the new PTO policy earlier in 2020, we communicated that employees would be eligible to sell up to 40 hours of any unused 'old' PTO (PTO and Pre-PTO balance as of Jan 31, 2020) that remained in their banks in the summer of this year. I am pleased to announce that the sale window will be open from July 17-23, 2020 and you may elect to sell up to of 40 hours of PTO at 50% of the value during this time. Payment for any sold PTO will be made on Friday, July 31st. If you are interested in selling your 'old' PTO (up to 40 hours at 50% value), please complete the attached form and submit to the email/fax number for processing.

In addition, in early November 2020, due to the disruption of the pandemic, we will now offer another sell opportunity with the same election option - 40 hours of unused "old hours" of PTO at 50% of the value. The sale window will be in November 6-12, 2020 and paid on or about November 20, 2020. Please look for further communication closer to that time. If you have any questions, please contact your leader or HR representative.

Heart Hospital nurses get care packages from New York colleagues



A group of nurses from New York sent care packages for the entire team of ICU nurses at Abrazo Arizona Heart Hospital. One of the hospital's staff nurses came from New York and a friend and her team created these amazing care packages as a show of support for colleagues in Arizona. The packages included snacks, facial masks, eye bag patches, little Sharpies, coffee, oatmeal, and more – everything that the nurses in New York said wished they would have had. It was really nice and greatly appreciated!

News coverage: <https://yourvalley.net/stories/arizona-nurses-receive-care-packages-from-new-york-colleagues,174000>

Do you have some positive news to share?

We know that good things are happening within our hospitals even with the challenges we face. Do you have a positive or “good news” story about coworkers going the extra mile, patient human interest or other topics that might be worthy of recognition? Talk with your supervisor, who can contact Communications Manager Keith Jones for follow up. The story may be used for a press release, media story or the internal update emails.

Employee Health hotline

A reminder to please notify your hospital's Employee Health office if you go home sick. Employee Health staff will stay in touch daily before you return to work.

The Abrazo Employee Health hotline for COVID-19 questions is available Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. – 7 p.m., and Saturday-Sunday from 7 a.m. – 5 p.m. The hotline is for Abrazo employees only and may be reached at 602-246-5597.

If you need to visit Employee Health, please call ahead so staff can plan for your arrival.

Incident Command email

Do you have a suggestion or feedback related to the hospital's pandemic response? Please email questions or suggestions to IncidentCommand@abrazohealth.com. Your message will be routed to the appropriate person to evaluate and respond.