

Arizona COVID-19 cases

The Arizona Department of Health Services has reported 112,671 positive COVID-19 cases and 73,165 cases in Maricopa County as of July 9, 2020. Out of the 841,282 COVID-19 tests completed to date in Arizona, 11.5% 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, 3,033 patients (4%) have been admitted to a hospital and 654 (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 70% of those who have been hospitalized and 89% of deaths for COVID-19. Nearly 65% of all COVID-19 infections reported have been among those under 45 years old.

N95 Wear

We know some of our staff has experienced skin irritation from mask wear. Although there is no protective device that can be used under the mask without breaking the needed seal, our CMO Dr. Ellert has found some helpful tips to ease skin breakdown. Moisturizing the skin at least daily with creams that contain acrylate polymers or dimethicone seem to be the best option. Products such as ointments, zinc, and petroleum (Vaseline) are **not** recommended.

- The product must be applied 1-2 hours prior to donning PPE to ensure that it is fully absorbed and completely dry.
- 5 minutes before applying the mask, make sure to apply an alcohol free skin barrier wipe (also known as liquid protectants or sealants) to the areas most likely to be affected – avoiding mouth and eyes. Make sure it has at least 1 minute to dry so that it is no longer tacky to the touch when donning the mask.
- Incidentally, this can also be used for those experiencing irritation from goggles.

Help us stop the spread

Arizona's increase in COVID cases has certainly added stress to all local hospital systems, and we are proud of the exceptional work you're doing to care for our patients and help manage our resources.

We need your help to stop the spread. Please remember masking, hand hygiene and physical distancing in our break rooms and cafeterias. You're seen as heroes in the community and it's also important to set a good example by wearing a face covering in public. Please do not eat or take breaks around others where you cannot socially distance.

Your support, collaboration and commitment to do what is best for patient care and ensure the safety of our patients, providers and staff is very much appreciated.

Do you have some *good* news to share?

While it seems like the news is full of negativity, we know that good things are happening within our hospitals even with the challenges we face. We're looking for "good news" stories about coworkers going the extra mile, patient recoveries or other topics that might be worthy of recognition. Talk with your supervisor, who can contact Communications Manager Keith Jones for additional consideration. The story could be used for a press release, media story or the update emails. See below for a couple recent examples.

Abrazo hospitals named in new Top 10 ranking

Four Abrazo hospitals are named in the Arizona top 10 list of a new national hospital ranking from the Lown Institute, a nonpartisan nonprofit based in Massachusetts.

Abrazo Arrowhead Campus, Abrazo Central Campus, Abrazo Scottsdale Campus and Abrazo West Campus are included in Lown Institute Hospitals Index released this week.

The Index measures three categories:

- Civic Leadership, which assesses a commitment to equity, inclusion and community health;
- Value of Care, which measures use of unnecessary services; and
- Patient Outcomes, which evaluates patient outcomes, safety and satisfaction.

Lown assessed nearly 3,300 hospitals on 42 metrics including data from a wide variety of sources including public records, Medicare claims, SEC filings and other databases.

“COVID-19 highlights how hospitals are essential community partners for anyone in need. To be great, however, a hospital cannot only provide care that’s high in quality. It must also deliver value and advance equality. Our index is designed to help them do just that,” said Vikas Saini, M.D., president of the Lown Institute.

Family Medicine Residency Program – a 40+ year legacy of care

The Abrazo Health Family Medicine Residency at Abrazo Central Campus recently graduated its Class of 2020. Established in 1978, the program has educated primary care physicians practicing locally and across the country.

Congratulations to the Class of 2020: Philippe Bierny, MD, Alexander Dydyk, DO, Shane Speirs, MD, Christina Wong, MD, Lauren Havard, MD, Pablo Veliz, MD and Renato Vieira, MD

“The foundation of our programs are patient-centered care with innovative approaches to training and collaboration. Residents prepare to be medical leaders and patient advocates, working closely with specialists and clinicians,” said Dr. Merima Bucaj, program director of the Abrazo Family Medicine Residency.

An example of patient advocacy and medical leadership can be found in a recent Rolling Stone article featuring Dr. Caleb Lauber, who practices in Gallup, NM, and graduated from Abrazo’s Family Medicine Residency Program in 1994, said Abrazo Chief Medical Officer Dr. William Ellert.

“Cal also worked for me when my medical group and department provided hospitalist services at two Abrazo hospitals in Phoenix,” added Dr. Ellert.

The story shows how the culture and values of our residency programs are embodied by the residents that we train and extends throughout the world as they go out to practice both nationally and internationally. Abrazo Central’s Family Medicine Residency Program has always embraced preparing graduates to practice full spectrum family medicine with a strong social justice culture and a preferential option for people of little means and few resources.

To read the full article, click here:

https://www.rollingstone.com/culture-features/navajo-covid-racism-homelessness-1016763/amp/?fbclid=IwAR12mBe0f157FUGZcVvgonvM9H_FyHW4V9g5haCg0caPRdCbytudfb6QfP8

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.