

## Arizona COVID-19 cases

The Arizona Department of Health Services has reported 227,635 positive COVID-19 cases and 147,551 cases in Maricopa County as of Oct. 14, 2020. Out of the 1,893,077 COVID-19 tests completed to date in Arizona, 10.0% 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, 12,738 patients (9%) have been admitted to a hospital and 1,412 (1%) admitted to an ICU since the county began collecting data on Jan. 22.

## COVID-19 update

Since our peak in July and August, we've seen a decline in COVID-19 patients across the Abrazo Market and across the State of Arizona. This has been a welcome relief. However, ADHS data shows an increase in new cases reported across the state. We are continuing to watch these numbers daily – both in our hospitals and across the state – to look for any trends that may be appearing. Thank you for all that you do to keep our patients, and each other, safe.

## PTO transition update

We are excited to share an update to the PTO transition. Please contact a member of the HR team know if you have any questions.

The pandemic has proved to be challenging in different ways, one of which is it hasn't allowed some of you to take the personal time off (PTO) that you have accrued throughout the year. We have received concerns with the current deadline of using PTO "new hours" by the end of the year and as we take your feedback seriously have modified our policy transition approach. Listed below is the relevant policy update, with all other PTO policy changes communicated in February remaining unchanged:

- **Deadline to use PTO "new hours."** We will extend the deadline to use PTO "new hours" (hours accrued after February 1, 2020) from December 31, 2020 through September 30, 2021. This provides you with an additional nine months to use any time accrued, but unused this year. The expiration date for use of PTO "old hours" (hours accrued prior to February 1, 2020) remains unchanged through June 30, 2022. There will not be any further extensions to the deadlines.
- **"Special" sell back event.** We have decided to hold an additional "special" sell back event in November where employees can sell up to one week of their PTO "old hours". To encourage participation, we have increased the sell back value from 50% to 75% for this "special" sell back event only.

We appreciate the feedback received and hope the above actions provide additional support in using your PTO. Thank you again for your hard work during the pandemic and every day as you serve our patients.

## Flu season is almost here

We will be distributing influenza vaccines as soon as possible. Please be on the lookout for updates from Employee Health on when/where you can get your shot. Getting your flu vaccine has always been important, but this year is unique because the flu and COVID share so many symptoms. We are shooting for 100% participation from all staff.



### **Microhospital milestones**

October has been a big month for Abrazo's microhospitals. Abrazo Mesa Hospital marked its first year of operation on October 1, and Abrazo Surprise Hospital opened on October 12. A big "thumbs up" to all who have worked to make these facilities a success! Our third microhospital in Cave Creek is under construction.

### **Abrazo in the news**

Abrazo has been in the news recently and we're always looking for good story ideas! Click on the links below for recent media coverage:

- [\*\*Abrazo to open first hospital in city of Surprise\*\*](#)
- [\*\*New Abrazo hospital opening in Surprise\*\*](#)
- [\*\*Abrazo Mesa Hospital marks first anniversary\*\*](#)
- [\*\*East Mesa hospital marks first year of operation\*\*](#)
- [\*\*The J and Abrazo present breast cancer awareness program\*\*](#)
- [\*\*Abrazo Health experts say don't delay heart care\*\*](#)
- [\*\*Abrazo Scottsdale doctor performs new knee replacement\*\*](#)

Do you have news to share? Talk with your manager or supervisor, who can contact Communications Manager Keith Jones for follow up. The information may be used for a press release, media story or internal communication.

### **Social distancing reminder**

We need to continue our vigilance with COVID precautions. Please remember to wear your masks and wash your hands. If meeting in groups larger than 10 please consider using Web-ex or call in lines. If you are showing signs and symptoms of illness please stay home and contact employee health. If you have been in direct contact with a COVID positive patient for longer than 15 minutes without a mask please reach out to employee health. Remember, we also should not be sitting at tables with groups of staff. The safety of our entire staff and patients is our highest priority.

### **Wellbeing resources on Abrazo intranet**

## Employee Wellbeing Resources



### Resource Offerings for Employees and Medical Staff

For those who may find it helpful, please find resources for employee and physician wellness linked here. Thank you for your tireless efforts on behalf of our hospitals and communities.

[more >>](#)

The Intranet home page now includes a link to a downloadable “Abrazo Wellbeing Resources” brochure. The booklet offers numerous resources for stress and anxiety management, dealing with grief and loss, suicide prevention and more. Log into the Intranet then click on the icon on the home page to access the brochure.

### **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](mailto:IncidentCommand@abrazohealth.com). Your message will be routed to the appropriate person to evaluate and respond.