



## Governor Ducey Issues Executive Orders

### Series of executive orders announced

Governor Ducey issued a series of executive orders to further combat the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic amid a surge of new cases. Restaurants are now required to operate at less than 50 percent of the permitted fire code occupant load and implement six-feet of separation between separate parties. Buffets, cafeteria style and self-serve food bars also are required to cease business until further notice.

The Governor also implemented Enhanced Surveillance Advisory regulations for all licensed hospitals, except special health facilities, to report to the Arizona Department of Health Services (AZDHS) every 24 hours. Hospitals statewide are now required to provide a list of all confirmed COVID-19 cases and patients, including name, date of birth, gender, race, and hospital admission date. All licensed hospitals must update their plans to ensure capability to increase Intensive Care Units (ICU) and bed capacity by July 17th, and are required to report the current number of surgery and ICU beds and additional beds. Each licensed hospital must identify and report the name and contact information of an assigned liaison to AZDHS to facilitate quality checks to ensure accurate reporting.

These new regulations are intended to produce an accurate report of the number of ICU beds across the state and slow the spread of COVID-19. Recent data from AZDHS indicate that as of the week ending July 3rd, 88% of current inpatient beds and 89% of ICU beds were in use for patients being treated for COVID-19 and other patients. Ventilator use for suspected and confirmed COVID-19 patients also reached a record high of 615. Overall, 49% of ventilators remain available.

To read the executive order limiting restaurant capacity, click [here](#).

To read the new enhanced surveillance advisory regulations, click [here](#).

### Project Catapult enacted by Governor

In addition to his executive orders, Governor Ducey announced the creation of "Project Catapult," which will work to help Sonora Quest Laboratories increase testing capacity and turnaround time for results. The partnership between Sonora Quest, Euroimmun/PerkinElmer and AZDHS will enable Arizona to continue the rapid expansion of testing across the state. The collaboration between Sonora Quest and PerkinElmer is an expansion of its [existing relationship](#), in which EUROIMMUN, a PerkinElmer company, provides tests to support Sonora

Quest's antibody testing. Sonora Quest expects to be able to process 35,000 diagnostic tests per day by the end of July, and up to 60,000 tests per day by the end of August.

### **School Board Members address Governor**

Last week, more than 60 school board members from districts across the state signed a letter urging Governor Ducey to delay the reopening of in-person schooling until October. Teachers have indicated that they are concerned over safety and that new guidelines promulgated by the CDC are not feasible. In response to the latest surge of cases and uncertainty surrounding reopening, several school districts have adopted four-day weeks to use one day of the week as a "disinfecting" day. Some districts are offering hybrid options, where students can attend class in-person only on specific days.

*The letter outlines several demands including:*

- Closing school buildings and classrooms statewide until Oct. 1st.
- Reopening in October if data suggests it is safe to do so.
- Developing agreed-upon protocol for in-person classes.
- Funding distance learning at the same level as in-person instruction, without requiring in-person classes every day of the week.
- Allowing schools flexibility in the number of required instructional days.
- Suspending state testing for the 2020-2021 school year.
- Asking the Arizona Department of Education to continue to-go meals for students while schools are closed.

Currently, the first day of the academic year for in person learning is no earlier than August 17th. However, the Governor and state officials continue to evaluate that date as conditions evolve.

To read the letter addressed to Governor Ducey, click [here](#).

### **AZDHS and ASU announce partnership**

Arizona Department of Health Services (AZDHS) and Arizona State University (ASU) announced a new partnership that will increase COVID-19 diagnostic testing in Arizona.

Beginning July 11th in the West Valley, ASU will administer free saliva diagnostic testing for COVID-19 in high-need underserved communities across the state. The saliva-based COVID-19 test was first developed in May by the ASU Biodesign Institute and has been actively used over the past six weeks to test critical workforce including health care workers, first responders, and infrastructure personnel. Through this partnership, AZDHS has committed up to \$12.7 million to fund the expansion of free testing sites to serve up to 100,000 Arizonans.

Since April, polymerase chain reaction diagnostic testing (PCR) has increased nearly 570% from 52,866 tests in April to 367,992 tests in June. There have been 36,653 PCR tests reported in the first week of July.

For more information on how to schedule a free test, click [here](#).

### **AZDES announces over \$5.7 billion in UI and PUA**

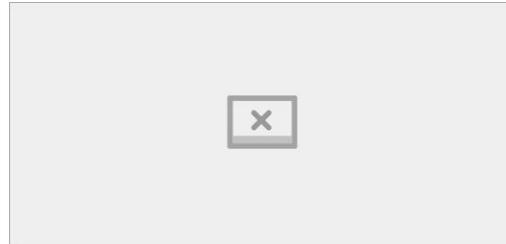
The Arizona Department of Economic Security (AZDES) announced it has distributed more than \$5.7 billion in state unemployment insurance (UI) and Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) since early March. During that same period, nearly 323,000 Arizonans received UI benefits and 557,000 Arizonans received PUA benefits. According to AZDES officials, more than \$722 million was issued to claimants last week and that number is expected to grow in the coming weeks.

AZDES has responded to the increased demand for services by increasing staff within the Unemployment Insurance Unit to more than 750. An additional 100 staff will be added to the private sector call center vendor to meet the continuing demand.

For more information on unemployment benefits and services, click [here](#).



### 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  
Rep. Jennifer Pawlik (D)  
Thursday, July 9th

Representing LD17, Representative Pawlik is serving her first term at the Legislature. The first woman and first Democrat elected to the House of Representatives in District 17, Pawlik is a former Chandler Unified School District teacher. An Arizona native, she earned her both B.S. and M.A. from Northern Arizona University. At the Legislature, she is a member of the House Education, Judiciary



Happy Birthday Sen.  
David Farnsworth (R)  
Thursday, July 16th

Representing LD16, Senator Farnsworth is serving his final term and is not running for re-election. Appointed to the Senate in 2013, Farnsworth served non-consecutively at the Arizona House from 1995 to 1997. Born in Mexico City, Farnsworth is the owner of Farnsworth and Associates – a real estate investing and rental management firm. At the Legislature, he is Chairman of Senate

and Joint Legislative Audit committees. This session her top legislative priority was HB2185 which would have made a supplemental appropriation of \$75 million from the general fund to the Department of Education for the School Safety Program. To wish Representative Pawlik happy birthday: [jpawlik@azleg.gov](mailto:jpawlik@azleg.gov)

Government and is a member of the Commerce, Finance and Joint Legislative Audit committees. This session his top legislative priority was SB1013 which would have required the Department of Child Safety to make semi-annual reports concerning runaway and abducted children. To wish Senator Farnsworth happy birthday: [dfarnsworth@azleg.gov](mailto:dfarnsworth@azleg.gov)

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