



## Governor's Office Press Conference Details

### August 31, 2020

Good afternoon,

This afternoon, Governor Ducey announced that Arizona continues to monitor COVID-19 with regard to the [White House's Guidelines for Opening America](#) based on the "Proposed State or Regional Gating Criteria."

Since Governor Ducey issued the "[Pausing of Arizona's Reopening – Slowing the Spread of COVID-19](#)" Executive Order, Arizona has seen some flattening. Over the last several weeks, Arizona has seen a dramatic decrease in the number of COVID-19 cases. However, "Flu season is just around the corner and Arizona isn't taking any chances," said Governor Ducey. With the overlap of COVID-19, this year presents greater challenges than the typical flu season. "Preventing the flu is more important than ever."

What to expect?

- Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) to expand the number of influenza vaccines available to the uninsured and under-insured
- Expanded access to influenza vaccines for those insured by the state's Medicaid agency (AHCCCS) to get their influenza vaccine
- AHCCCS will be increasing reimbursement to providers who administer the influenza vaccine
- Certified pharmacists will be able to administer influenza vaccines to AHCCCS enrolled children
- AHCCCS member who get their vaccine will receive a \$10 gift card
- Certain COVID-19 test sites will also administer influenza vaccines
- Online tools including a vaccine finder and business tool kit

Governor Ducey emphasized that, "Arizona's most important partner is YOU, the people of Arizona." Arizona has made a significant amount of progress, but we cannot let up now.

Furthermore, Arizona Department of Health Services Director, Cara Christ, gave a brief update on Arizona's gradual reopening. The trends remain positive. "This week, 9 counties are in categories that allow for certain businesses to reopen with reduced occupancy and strict public health requirements. There are 8 counties in the moderate category, including Pima County and Maricopa. And there is one in the minimal category, which is Greenlee. Looking ahead at our data, it's possible that additional counties could move into the moderate category this week when our dashboard updates," said Director Christ.

Additionally, Arizona Department of Health Services Director Cara Christ and Arizona

Superintendent of Public Instruction Kathy Hoffman collaboratively developed and released a roadmap for students and teachers to return to the classroom. Currently, four counties have met the benchmarks to return to the classroom, and several others have implemented a hybrid model. More are expected to meet the benchmarks in the coming weeks.

Governor Ducey said, "Thank you to every Arizonan for doing your part this flu season and getting a flu shot."

For more information, [click here](#). As always, please let us know if you have any questions or comments.

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