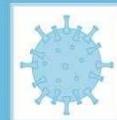


# Coronavirus



## MAYOR'S MAY 1, 2020 STATEMENT

The Honorable Joseph M. Corradino

It's the end of April and we've completed our first seven weeks since the COVID-19 crisis began. Let's review where we have been, where we are and where we are going in the coming weeks and months.

### *Where We Were*

Pinecrest declared a local state of emergency on March 12th. By March 16th, the County was closing non-essential businesses. A formal Safer At Home order reiterated all of this by March 27th. The goal was to preserve the capacity of the healthcare system so that everyone that needed critical care would get critical care. We knew that to fight this disease effectively we would need to be socially distant then test as many people as possible. We have only been able to really fight this disease by staying home. Testing has been too slow, and too scarce to be much help at this point.

### *Hospital Capacity*

On April 1st we had about 2,700 open beds, 266 open ICU beds and 679 open ventilators. Since then we've tracked those numbers twice daily with the County and their healthcare professionals and began growing the capacity of the healthcare system. As cases increased daily, so has the capacity of the system. As of the last day of April, we have preserved the capacity of the system. There are close to 3,000 open beds, about 575 open ICU beds with another 450 that can be converted to ICU beds, and 170 occupied ICU beds. There are about 875 open ventilators and about 115 occupied ventilators. This does not count two field hospitals that have been set up to handle any overload.

### *The Trajectory of the Disease*

Medical professionals also tell us the disease has peaked, but we have a way to go to get to the bottom of the curve. We've been tracking positive cases, hospitalizations and deaths as provided by Miami-Dade County. The average number of positive cases per

day peaked in the first week of April and has declined each day since. The number of currently hospitalized patients peaked at the end of the second week of April at about 665 and has remained flat at around that point for the past 2 1/2 weeks. The average number of deaths per day had continued to rise until this week, where it has since leveled off and remained steady at about 9 deaths per day.

As of today, we have preserved our hospital capacity and stabilized the trajectory of the disease for the time being. Some hospitals are even resuming normal operations and elective surgeries next week.

### *Where We Are Going*

None of these gains are guaranteed and they can be easily reversed. This disease will be with us after we reach the bottom of the curve; into the summer, fall and winter. There are likely many weeks ahead of us to reach the levels of hospitalization and death that we saw in late March and even then we must still remain vigilant.

As we move forward, the Village remains open and functional. Pinecrest has instructed any of its staff that can work from home to do so. Police are operating as normal. The Building and Planning Department is reviewing plans, issuing permits and providing inspections, while doing meetings virtually. Other departments, like Public Works and Parks, that need to be outdoors, are doing maintenance activities. We anticipate functioning in this manner for the foreseeable future. Crime is down, at an all-time low, and calls for service have declined during the past month. Essential businesses and construction sites have been largely compliant with the rules, which have been rigorously enforced with few shutdowns occurring.

This week we have loosened some restrictions in our parks along with the County and most other cities, allowing passive activities like walking, jogging and singles tennis. This plan has been reviewed, modified and endorsed by the scientists and medical professionals. In May, we will be looking at ways to bring back other programming. The Farmers Market may be reinvigorated as a drive through event. We are looking at the creative ways to hold summer camps, the creation of drive through movies and live streamed concerts from the Banyan Bowl. We will be delivering meals and masks to our seniors. We are coordinating with our religious institutions, sports leagues, business association and Chamber of Commerce to put plans in place for how to in some way start these currently closed aspects of society.

At the same time we are working with the County to develop guidelines for how to open nonessential businesses when the time comes. No timeframe has been set on this opening. South Florida will not be following the State of Florida's opening on May 4th. We have been assured that any opening of some of these spaces would only be done after the statistics meet the Federal government's Phase 1 criteria and medical experts agree.

We know that to effectively fight this war, we not only need to practice social distancing, but we need ubiquitous testing, contact tracing and quarantining. The good news is that

we now know the power of social distancing. The bad news is that the testing is the weakest part of the regional approach.

### *Testing, Testing, Testing*

Simply put, there are not enough tests to test everyone. But there are over 50 private labs gearing up production. I've gotten a lot of calls about municipalities providing tests. The fact is no city is ahead of nor behind any other city. Because the disease knows no political boundaries, we work every day towards the goal of complete testing on a regional basis and here in Pinecrest. Testing is expanding and protocols are becoming less restrictive. Today there are 17 different testing sites around the county and anyone can get a test at Hard Rock Stadium and the South Dade Government Center. Right now, if anyone in the community feels they are at risk and need to be tested close by, they can go to nearby hospital emergency rooms. Any elderly person in Pinecrest can get in-home testing provided by Miami-Dade County by calling and making an appointment. Details on this information are available on the Miami-Dade County ([www.miamidade.gov/coronavirus](http://www.miamidade.gov/coronavirus)) and Village of Pinecrest websites ([www.pinecrest-fl.gov/coronavirus](http://www.pinecrest-fl.gov/coronavirus)).

On this first day of May, we have made great progress, but are left with much work ahead of us. We have preserved our hospital capacity and impacted the trajectory of this disease largely because of the social distancing we have done. We are aggressively pursuing testing and continue to guard our hospital beds and ventilators. We continue to stockpile masks, gloves and gowns so that if and when this spikes in the summer or fall we are completely prepared.

We are entering a monotonous stage of this crisis. We know this is hard. Boredom and frustration can grow, but we need to continue to practice the habits we have formed in the past months; through the next few weeks and likely the summer and fall. When we go out we need to stay distant from others, and when you can't, wear a mask, and practice great hygiene at all times. Hang in there we are getting through this better than anyone expected.

As always stay safe and please text, call or email me at 305-606-2364 or [jcorradino@pinecrest-fl.gov](mailto:jcorradino@pinecrest-fl.gov).

Or contact our Village Council ([council@pinecrest-fl.gov](mailto:council@pinecrest-fl.gov)) and staff ([manager@pinecrest-fl.gov](mailto:manager@pinecrest-fl.gov)) at 305-234-2121. We are all working together as a unified team every day to make this as painless as possible.