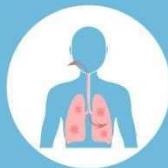
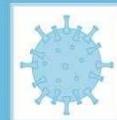


Coronavirus



MAYOR'S JUNE 19, 2020 STATEMENT

The Honorable Joseph M. Corradino

When we entered this phase of re-opening, we expected fluctuations in incidents of the disease. This week we are seeing the first such increase that we need to watch very closely and immediately stop and reverse before it gets worse.

If we follow and rigorously enforce the rules, we can do this. In doing so each of us need to limit our interactions, stay distant when out, wear masks, and practice excellent hygiene. Our businesses need to assure that they maintain compliance with the rules we set out. All the municipalities county-wide, need to make sure this gets done.

Many people feel that the disease is gone. It is not. COVID-19 is very much with us and will continue to be. The best way to get past it is to adhere to the rules.

Miami-Dade County is certainly performing better than the remainder of the State of Florida; in controlling the disease because we closed earlier, opened later and developed our own reopening rules, in concert with medical professionals - based on safety first.

The numbers are going up.

We track tests and positive cases. Both are trending up. Over the past two weeks we are averaging about 4,000 tests per day. Up from about 1,200 tests per day a month or so ago.

Positives cases per day are at 344 today and trending up. This is double where we were two weeks after the recent relaxation of rules on businesses. The current number is about where we were when we opened parks in early April.

When measuring the rate of infection, we have a goal of keeping the percent of positive cases out of total tests under 10% on average over a two-week period. Over the past two weeks, this has averaged about 8.6%, which is under our threshold. But this week, we had two of the highest daily percentages at 14% and 13%. Additionally, 5 of the last 10 days have been over 10%.

When we measure hospital capacity, we look at beds, ICU beds and ventilators. We should maintain an open capacity of 30%. We remain well below our thresholds, but the numbers are going up. Today, 19% of regular beds are occupied. Two weeks ago, 17% were occupied. Today 26% of ICU Beds are occupied. Two weeks ago, 19% were occupied. Today 7.5% of ventilators are occupied. Two weeks ago, 5.5% were occupied.

At the peak of the disease in early April, we had 710 COVID patients in the hospital. When we relaxed our regulations and opened the businesses a few weeks ago, the number of COVID patients in the hospital was at 664 patients, 7% less than the peak. Two weeks later, we hit a low of 546 patients, 23% less than the peak. Since that time, the number of COVID patients in the hospital has climbed. Yesterday we had 650 patients. This number is still less than it was when we reopened and we still have significant capacity, but hospitalizations have increased. Average deaths per day remain flat at about 9. There are many reasons for this; farm workers, Assisted Living Facilities, protests, but most importantly, people have generally become more complacent.

While it's not time to panic or to go back and shut down again, It is time to nip this spike and for everyone to remember this disease is not gone. We know there is a tremendous amount of fatigue with this situation. It's time for each of us to recommit to limiting our interactions, staying distant when out, wearing masks, and practicing excellent hygiene. Our businesses need to assure that they maintain compliance with the rules. All cities, county-wide, need to make sure this gets done. And we have all committed to this.

We must learn to coexist with this disease for the foreseeable future.

As always, we at the Village of Pinecrest are here to make this as stress free as we possibly can. If you need to contact me, please do so at 305-606-2364 or jcorradino@pinecrest-fl.gov. Or contact our staff (manager@pinecrest-fl.gov) and Village Council (council@pinecrest-fl.gov). Each and every one of us is working hard every day as a unified team.