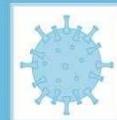


Coronavirus



MAYOR'S JUNE 25, 2020 STATEMENT

The Honorable Joseph M. Corradino

Countywide, the trajectory of the disease is on a consistent increase. It can and must be stopped while we still have the hospital capacity.

This week all cities along with Miami-Dade County have joined together to re-emphasize that beating this virus is up to all of us as individuals, businesses and governments.

In Miami-Dade County we closed earlier and opened later than the remainder of the State of Florida. Our reopening met the CDC gateway criteria, and came with dozens of rules, from many industries, created by experts, and certified by medical professionals. The numbers show that we are far better off than the remainder of the State of Florida. Our medical professionals tell us that while we have serious issues, these can be remedied by following the rules.

We know what to do, and we have done it well. It is time for each of us, as individuals, to recommit to limiting our interactions. If you can work from home, do it. If you go out, stay distant, and if unable to, wear a mask. Practice excellent hygiene with frequent hand washing. Strictly limit household gatherings.

Our businesses need to assure that they maintain compliance with the rules. Our cities, county-wide, need to make sure this gets done through rigorous enforcement of the rules.

In Pinecrest, our citizens and businesses have been largely compliant in the commercial areas. Almost everyone adheres to the rules, including staying distant and wearing masks. If not, when reminded, they quickly do so.

Essentially Miami-Dade County and Pinecrest's rules follow CDC best practices and mandate masks in public indoors and outdoors when social distancing is not possible. In Pinecrest, we are doing this. It is not an issue.

In Pinecrest, we rigorously enforce the rules. We help our businesses and citizens understand the rules and get in compliance if there is a problem. That being said, if compliance is not quickly attained, we do not go back a third time. We shut them down until compliance is attained. Zero tolerance.

Our Largest Problem

Pinecrest's largest problem is private house parties, which have become prevalent in recent weeks. These are the most dangerous things that impact our community. The law does not enable us to enforce the rules we use on public spaces on private property. So, our current option is to appeal to the common sense and decency of our citizens. This danger comes directly from within.

We understand the fatigue of this situation, particularly during graduation season and summer. We understand that young people do not take this seriously. But we ALL must take this seriously.

Please do not have large gatherings or indoor parties in Pinecrest. You are jeopardizing your lives, the lives of your children, parents, and the lives of your neighbors.

There are safe ways to have fun with extended family and friends if you must.

- Limit gatherings to as few people as possible.
- Do not gather indoors. If you do, everyone should wear a mask.
- Gather outdoors.
- Stay at least 6' apart and wear a mask if you can't keep the distance.
- Each group should bring their own cooler, food, masks, sanitizer, trash bags, etc.
- Do not touch common objects like faucets, refrigerator doors and doorknobs.
- Restrooms should have soap and sanitizer.

The Numbers

Today, the incidents of the disease is greater in all measurements than it was at its peak in early April.

We test about 4,500 people per day. This is about four times more than we were testing in recent months. Positives are at 957 today and trending up. This is about 60% higher than where we were two weeks after the recent relaxation of rules on businesses. The current number is about 34% greater than where we were at our peak in 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. Prior to three weeks ago, this had averaged about 8.6% which was under our threshold. But last week and this week we have again had the highest daily percentages at 25% and 27%. Additionally, 11 of the last 11 days have been over 11%. Today, the two-week average is 14%

When we measure hospital capacity, we look at beds, ICU beds and ventilators. We should stay below a 70% utilization rate. We remain well below our thresholds, but the numbers are going up. Today, 27% of regular beds are being utilized. Three weeks ago, 17% were being utilized. Today 37% of ICU Beds are being utilized. Three weeks ago, 16% were being utilized. Today 10% of ventilators are being utilized. Three weeks ago, 5% were being utilized.

At the peak of the disease in early April, we had 710 COVID-19 patients in the hospital. When we relaxed our regulations and opened the businesses a few weeks ago, the number of patients in the hospital was at 664, 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-19 patients in the hospital has climbed. Yesterday we had 885 patients. This number is 24% greater than the peak and is rising. While we still have significant capacity, we are quickly consuming this capacity each week.

Average deaths per day over the last 14 days remain steady at about 9.

Nearly five months into this crisis, the State of Florida has only supplied us with 175 Contact Tracers. It is clear that this help is not coming fast enough. Often because the test results take days to come back, even adequate contact tracing would not be as effective as it could be. We are focused on both problems and will have countywide solutions. The State and County are in the process of adding in the short term 50 contact tracers. With more in the process.

The State is now able to confidently track the zip codes of where people who have the disease live. This does not track where they caught it, so it is of moderate utility. Six zip codes are hot spots this week. One in deep Southwest Miami-Dade County. The others all in the City of Miami. The county will be deploying hundreds of people in "surge teams" which will go into hot spots and speak to people and businesses to provide information, education and masks.

At this time, we lack the specific data to tell us where the illness is coming from in terms of location and industry type so that we can eliminate the riskiest behaviors.

This week, most of the cases are affecting people in the age group between 18 and 35 years old.

As we have been saying for months, this disease will be with us for the foreseeable future, through the summer, into the fall and next winter. We have exhausted many of the tools to combat it. Now we must learn to coexist with it.

I reiterate, it is time for each of us, as individuals, to recommit. If we do not take responsibility as individuals, businesses and governments, we are putting our own physical lives at risk, and ultimately, as the hospital capacity runs out we will be back in a shutdown that will put our financial lives at risk.

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.