MAYOR’S JULY 2, 2020 STATEMENT

The Honorable Joseph M. Corradino

Good afternoon, Pinecrest. This is our update for the week.

The disease is spreading rapidly, and we are heading into a major holiday weekend so it is important that everyone, individuals, businesses and government does their part to keep us safe.

What We Need to Do

Each of us should stay home as much as possible, avoid large public and private gatherings, wear a mask, stay distant, and practice great hygiene.

Businesses need to adhere to the rules we put forward. If your patrons will not adhere to these rules, please call the Pinecrest Police. Governments have adjusted the rules and will enforce them to assure we remain safe.

Our experience with this disease for similar holidays is that two weeks after we see an increase in the number of cases. This time, we cannot afford a spike on top of the surge we are experiencing.

To guard against this, Miami-Dade County has closed its beaches, put strict rules on pools and restaurants, and has reemphasized mask requirements. Public gatherings (including parades) can have no more than 50 people. In those situations, masks and social distancing are required. Fireworks displays must be viewed from one’s home or parked vehicle. These rules apply throughout the County including Pinecrest.
Private parties are strongly discouraged. Don’t do it. But if you do, follow these precautions:

- Limit gatherings to as few people as possible.
- Do not gather indoors. If you do, everyone should wear a mask.
- Gather outdoors.
- Stay 6’ apart and wear a mask.
- 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.

All cities, including Pinecrest, will continue to rigorously enforce the rules with zero tolerance, heavy fines and stringent reopening criteria.

**Why Do We Need to Do This?**

At the outset of this crisis, our goal was to preserve the hospital system capacity, so those who needed critical care could get critical care, thereby preventing as many unnecessary deaths as possible.

The good news is we have had months to prepare in our habits, increase our supplies of Personal Protective Equipment, bed and ventilator capacity and tests.

We closed earlier and opened later than the rest of the State. Our reopening occurred after we passed CDC gateway criteria and came with dozens of rules made by industry professionals and approved by the medical professionals. We are told by the doctors that if we adhere to the rules we can limit the spread of the disease.

We currently lack the data to surgically set public policy in reaction to the outbreak, so our tools remain blunt. We do not specifically know the areas or industries where these outbreaks start. The medical experts tell us the disease is spreading through the community and being brought into confined indoor spaces. Younger people are the primary spreaders and it is moving from them across all demographics.
Contact tracing is not yet adequately in place. Critical data is not being collected from the tracers. Contact tracing is a State of Florida responsibility. At last look, the County reported over 175 State Contact Tracers in place for nearly 3 million of our citizens. Even if contact tracing were adequately staffed, it would likely be ineffective because it takes a week or more to get test results back.

We know what losing the hospital capacity looks like. Regular patients with other illnesses and those that need elective surgery are pushed out. Beds run low. Patients are cared for in hospital hallways. Drugs and critical care equipment runs low. Healthcare workers get sick. Doctors must make difficult choices on who gets critical care and who does not. Many people die who otherwise would not. As morgues subsequently become over capacity, bodies are stacked and stored in refrigerator trucks. Getting to this point means that the crisis becomes a disaster. A disaster worse than any hurricane in loss of life, financial and emotional costs, and time to rebuild our economy.

The Numbers

This week the incidents of the disease are again greater in all measurements than it was at its peak in early April and growing each week.

We test on average about 5,600 people per day. This is over five times more than we were testing in recent months. Positives cases this week hit a high of 2,152 in one day. Over the last two weeks, we’ve averaged 1,049 positive cases per day. This is about 6 times higher than where we were two weeks after the recent relaxation of rules on businesses, and about 2.5 times higher 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. This number has gone from 8.6% in early June, to 14% last week to 19% this week. In the last week, have had daily percentages as high as 23%

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, 37% of regular beds are being utilized. A month ago, 17% were being utilized. Today 58% of ICU beds are being utilized. Last week this number was 37%. A month ago, 16% were being utilized. Today 14% of ventilators are being utilized. A month 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, 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 1,298 patients. This number is 82% greater than the peak and is rising. While we still have capacity, we are quickly consuming this capacity each week, and very soon may reach a tipping point.

Average deaths per day over the last 14 days remain steady at about 9. This is likely due to the age of the current patients. This week, most of the cases are still affecting people in the age group between 15 and 44 years old, with a median age of 40.

We all need to do our part to push this back.

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.