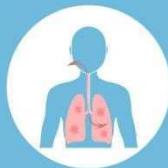
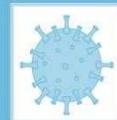


# Coronavirus



## MAYOR'S JULY 10, 2020 STATEMENT

The Honorable Joseph M. Corradino

Good afternoon, Pinecrest. This is our update for July 10th.

This week, our medical professionals have told us that Miami-Dade County's hospitals are very likely going to be reaching or exceeding their capacity in the coming weeks.

To guard against this we have ratcheted up regulations in an attempt to stop the spread from where we believe it is coming from - beaches had closed for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday, a 10:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. curfew has been put in place countywide, a mandatory mask order has been instituted, and restaurants and gyms have been more closely regulated.

Enforcement has been ramped up. It will be at least two weeks before we can tell if these measures are going to be successful.

The recent regulations on restaurants and gyms has been highly controversial in the various municipalities of our county. There is a large debate about the use of scientific evidence and data in the county's policy making process. Our greatest weakness now, is that in spite of working on this for months, adequate scientific data for precision policy making does not exist.

It still takes over a week to get test results back and that leaves us with our hands tied. The data we collect from the people who are infected is not effective. We cannot tell with any precision, where people are getting the disease geographically or from what industries or businesses.

The contact tracing efforts are nowhere near where they need to be. This week, Pinecrest stood with local governments across the county in a request to the Governor for the state to provide the right amount of contact tracers for the 3 million citizens of Miami-Dade County. By the numbers, this would mean we would need 800 contact tracers. We currently have nowhere near that amount, and they are contacting only 17% of those that tested positive.

Moving forward, in order to contain, control, and eradicate this disease, it is critical that we have the ability to make laser focused, real time and evidenced based policy decisions. To accomplish this, we need high level data and the ability to collect it, and that can only be done with a full complement of contact tracers. This must happen. Without it we only have very blunt policy tools. As can be seen, setting policy with these tools is imprecise and causes confusion.

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.

Here are the numbers...

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

We have tested on average about 8,000 people per day over the past two weeks. Last week, the average was about 5,500. Positive cases this week hit a one day high of 2,916. Over the last two weeks we have averaged 1,950 positive cases per day. This is about 12 times higher than where we were two weeks after the recent relaxation of rules on businesses and about 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 19% last week to 24% this week. In the last few days, we have had daily percentages as high as 33%. Over 55,000 people have tested positive overall. It is estimated that the actual number of people who have had this is 10 times as high, or over 500,000 people.

When we measure hospital capacity, we look at beds, ICU beds and ventilators. We should stay below a 70% utilization rate. We are running low. Today, 48% of regular beds are being utilized. In early June, 17% were being utilized. Today 92% of ICU beds are being utilized. Last week this number was 58%. In early June, 16% were being utilized. Today 23% of ventilators are being utilized. This equals where we were at our peak in early April. In early June, 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 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 1,748 patients. This number is 143% greater than the peak and is rising.

Average deaths per day over the last 14 days has remained flat at about 9. Most of the deaths are people over 60.

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 42, which is higher than last week.

The treatment drugs are reportedly harder to get. Some hospitals have brought back the refrigerated trucks. Some hospitals are asking for additional medical personnel.

The disease is now everywhere. Any interaction may put you in contact with a person who is asymptomatic and positive. Please minimize your risk. Stay home as much as possible. Stay distant from others and wear a mask when out, and practice great hygiene. If you take a test, treat yourself as "positive" until you get the results back. If you are called by a contact tracer, please answer their questions accurately so we can begin to pinpoint the direct sources of this disease. Pinecrest will continue to enforce the rules rigorously. Personal behavior has always been and will continue to be the greatest determinant between success and failure.

The path ahead of us is uncertain and going to be lengthy, but together, we at the Village of Pinecrest are here to help us get through this crisis. If you need to contact me, please do so at 305-606-2364 or [jcorradino@pinecrest-fl.gov](mailto:jcorradino@pinecrest-fl.gov). Or contact our staff ([manager@pinecrest-fl.gov](mailto:manager@pinecrest-fl.gov)) and Village Council ([council@pinecrest-fl.gov](mailto:council@pinecrest-fl.gov)). Each and every one of us is working hard every day as a unified team.