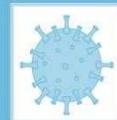


Coronavirus



MAYOR'S SEPTEMBER 18, 2020 STATEMENT

The Honorable Joseph M. Corradino

This week, we are in a holding pattern waiting for time to pass into late September and early October so we can determine the trajectory of the disease after Labor Day and the recent relaxation of regulations. Then we will know how we will do this fall. Miami-Dade County has moved to open entertainment venues such as movie theaters, bowling alleys and banquet halls. There is a push to reopen bars and nightclubs, but no action has been taken. There has been no decision on in-person learning at the public schools.

We have seen the numbers continue to decrease, getting better each day. The utilization of hospital beds, ICU beds and ventilators has continued to go down.

The positivity rate and the number of hospitalizations have both continued to improve. These are now lower than they were at the low point in June after the first wave and about where we were in early April. We need to keep it going down from here, so we can significantly control the disease this fall.

The positivity rate continues to decrease each day. We strive to keep it under 10% on a two-week average. The medical experts suggest we can begin considering further relaxation of the rules when we get below 5%. Remember places that really have it under control, like New York, are making moves based on a 2% positivity rate. It should be next week before we get to below 5%; if all goes well. This week's number is at about 5.1%.

The number of people in the hospital is approximately 450. This is about 100 people less than last week and around where it was on April 5th, when we were in the initial climb during our initial wave.

There are about 600 tracers, where we need 800. Tracers are now contacting about 90% of the people that are tested positive. It is estimated that nearly half of all people contacted are refusing to participate. If you are contacted, please cooperate. The County is offering hotel rooms for you to isolate in and they are working on a contact tracing app for your cell phone. The app, called [CombatCovid MDC](#), can determine if your phone is near another person's whose owner has identified as COVID-positive. It alerts you without disclosing their identity. The app requires no personal information; no GPS or location data is tracked.

Test results countywide are coming back in less than three days on average. It is easy and convenient but not as many tests are being done as a month ago. This is not a capacity issue; it is a demand issue.

We have been told by the medical experts that this won't be over until the second quarter of 2021. How well we practice what we have learned will be the determinate on how quickly we can get back to a more familiar way of life.

As we see when we look at the hospitalizations and positivity rate, it has taken nearly 6 months to get back to the point we were in early April. It takes too long to regain the ground we lose during the waves, and we need to get back to normal. As governments at all levels we need to stress the importance of keeping our guard up. The relaxation of the regulations can provide us flexibility but is not an "all clear" signal. The best thing we can do is exactly what we have been doing for the last 6 weeks. We already know how to live with this disease. It is working. Even if everything were open, we would be better off by wearing a mask, washing our hands, avoiding large gatherings, particularly indoors, and staying six feet away from others. Wearing a mask is the most important thing we all can do. If we keep doing that, children can go back to school and stay in school.

Miami-Dade County is the second most exposed county in the nation behind Los Angeles. We have more than 166,000 positive cases. This disease is all around and there is the expectation of a fall wave due to the cold and flu season; as well as the re-opening of colleges and eventually in-person K-12 schools. We need to keep it up.

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 jcorradino@pinecrest-fl.gov or 305-606-2364. 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.