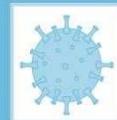


Coronavirus



MAYOR'S OCTOBER 9, 2020 STATEMENT

The Honorable Joseph M. Corradino

This week, we are in a holding pattern. The numbers have remained relatively flat, with a slight tick up for the second week in a row, which is to be expected after the month of September and everything that was opened.

As we ended September, we are in a relatively good position, not a great position, but we are in control of the disease. October will tell us a lot for where this disease is ultimately going to go as we move toward the end of the year. Medical experts anticipate that we will experience a fall wave. They are not sure of the potential intensity of the wave. By the last week of this month, we will know the impacts of the Governor's Phase 3 reopenings and the opening of schools, and if we will see a lower wave that we can stay in control of, or a quickly escalating more severe wave.

The good news is that as we move into these phases of reopening, people are largely complying with the mandatory mask order.

Masks are still mandatory. Pinecrest will continue issuing citations to businesses and individuals who do not comply. Overall compliance in the Village is excellent.

As fall unfolds, it is critical that those of us who are most vulnerable, continue doing what we are doing. Wear your mask, stay out of large unmasked indoor gatherings like indoor dining, and practice great hygiene. This is particularly important if you have multi-generational families and as the fall holidays approach.

The Numbers

The utilization of hospital beds, ICU beds, and ventilators are about the same as they were last week. All are flat and under 10% utilization.

Hospitalizations have stayed leveled off. Today, there are 336 COVID patients in the hospital, a few less than the previous week for the 11th week in a row. There were 546 people in the hospital at our low point after the spring wave two weeks after Memorial Day.

The 14-day average positivity rate is higher than the previous week for the second week in a row. We strive to keep it under 10% on a two-week average, and preferably below 5%. This week's numbers are still below 5% for the third week in a row, at about 4.7%. In early June, the rate was at about 3%.

There is a number called the "R-Naught" (R_0). This is the average number of people that would be infected by one infected person. A number greater than 1.0 means each person that has it will infect more than one person and a number less than 1.0 means that they will infect less than one person. If the number is less than 1.0 the disease is waning. If it is greater, the disease is growing. This week the number is 0.83. So, this week the disease is receding thanks to mask wearing.

There are about 600 contact tracers, where we need 800 or more to do it right. Tracers are calling about 90% of the people that have tested positive. More than 50% of those called are refusing to participate. Excellent contact tracing is critical to ultimately controlling this disease. It is not yet a success but it's constantly improving. If contacted, please respond truthfully.

Testing is still down but due to demand and not capacity. We need to maintain that capacity for all types of tests far into the future.

While the numbers are as low as they have been since early June, they have started to go up. As we re-open, we expect the trajectory to go up. We need to watch on a day-by-day basis to keep it under control. We should know the impact of the state's reopening and the opening of the schools by the last 10 days of October. We all need to be extra careful. The virus is still everywhere and very contagious. As seen in Washington, D.C., even an outdoor party, and especially unmasked, can spread the disease rapidly. The medical experts consulting Miami-Dade County and the cities say this will last well into 2021. Hang in there. Every week we get closer. We still have a while to go.

Pinecrest is offering socially distant options to its regular programming at Pinecrest Gardens and the Pinecrest Community Center. The Farmers Market continues as a drive-through. We also are having a drive-in movie night. Check our web site and social media channels for more information. This month, our Jazz Series is beginning virtually with a live streamed concert by John Secada - tickets are available at www.pinecrestgardens.org/jazzaid.

Remember, the best protection we can have regardless of anything else is to follow a few simple rules: wear a mask; wash your hands frequently; always stay at least six feet apart; and do not attend large indoor gatherings, particularly in places where you are in proximity with others and must remove your mask.

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. 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.