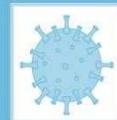


# Coronavirus



## MAYOR'S OCTOBER 16, 2020 STATEMENT

The Honorable Joseph M. Corradino

This week, the trajectory of the disease has remained flat, at lows on par with where we were in early April. So far, this is good news.

Medical experts do anticipate that we will experience a fall wave. They are not sure of the potential intensity of the wave. We need to remain vigilant and nimble, because when these waves begin, they accelerate rapidly out of control in a matter of days or weeks. There are currently no signs of a loss of control. We will know better at the end of next week as we get two weeks past the opening of schools and the Phase 3 re-openings.

### *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 level. Today, there are 333 COVID patients in the hospital, a few less than the previous week for the 12th week in a row.

The 14-day average positivity rate is a bit higher than the previous week for the third week in a row. But it's still under the 5% goal (4.75) for the fourth consecutive week.

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. If the  $R_0$  is less than 1.0, a disease outbreak should wane over time, and if it's greater than 1.0, cases would continue to increase. For example, if  $R_0=2$  each case will infect 2 other people on average, and those two will infect 4 more people and so forth. When the  $R_0$  equals 1, the epidemic will maintain itself, neither

increasing or decreasing. That is the case we have now. This week, the number is 0.99. Last week it was at 0.83. The epidemic is maintaining itself.

Critical to isolating the virus is contact tracing. Tracers are interviewing about 50% of the people that have tested positive within two days. This is quite poor. By comparison, the State of New York is interviewing about 90% of their cases.

Testing is still down, but due to demand and not capacity. Pinecrest will keep the site at the Pinecrest Municipal Center open indefinitely, providing both a swab test and an antibody test.

If we can maintain this trend through October, we will be in as good shape as we could expect heading into the holidays, when we will be presented with a new set of issues.

This week marks seven months since we began and we are told there is quite some time to go. Thus far, in the county, we have had close to 177,000 positive COVID cases and over 3,500 deaths. About 425 people are people are testing positive each day. The virus is still very much in the community.

We understand the stress, insecurity and pain this is causing. So how does this all end? And when? The medical experts tell us that pandemics do not magically disappear or just go away. The virus only leaves when it runs out of people to infect. At that point, communitywide immunity has built up and the virus may stick around for decades as a seasonal issue, but will be controllable. For novel viruses like this one, spreading with no intervention through social measures, therapeutics or vaccines, Miami-Dade County could see as many as 70% of all of us get infected before it's gone.

The State of Florida, through its Phase 3 re-openings, has now adopted a pure herd immunity strategy. This is a strategy that essentially says we are all going to get it anyway, so go about life as normal and manage your own risk on your own terms. If you get it, which you likely will, let nature take its course as quickly as possible. All protective measures are suggested, but you do not have to wear a mask, stay distant or wash your hands. It presumes that there is nothing we can do about it. In 2020, with all our technology, this strategy is irresponsible by unnecessarily risking lives

According to our medical experts, if Miami-Dade County followed this strategy, which so far it has not, we could see 15,000 COVID deaths by this time in 2021. About 20,000 people die in this county each year from all other causes combined. Already this disease is the third leading annual cause of death at 129 deaths/100,000 people. It trails only heart disease (180

deaths/100,000 people) and cancer (152 deaths/100,000 people). In comparison, the seasonal flu kills 10 out of every 100,000 people.

When we tried opening without the mandatory wearing of masks, between May and August, the disease spiraled out of control. It is possible to protect the elderly and most vulnerable while getting those like the young and the least vulnerable back to work, as we fight through the pandemic together. Miami-Dade's strategy, since July, has done just this, and it is working as noted by the stable numbers. The strategy has been one that balances the economic and healthcare concerns by strategically opening the economy in combination with mandatory social measures like masks, distancing and tracing. The slower rate of infection buys time to mitigate the most severe cases with therapeutics. The end goal is to delay as many cases as possible until the vaccines are available and we can get herd immunity through inoculation and not through infection.

The next mayor of Miami-Dade County must defend this strategy and push back on the irresponsibility of letting the disease run its course unfettered, as the state government is encouraging.

We know this is difficult and stressful. Stay the course. Every week we get closer. Every week our most vulnerable have better chances and better outcomes.

We at the Village of Pinecrest are here to help us all 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)).