



## ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

March 30, 2022

The Honorable Douglas A. Ducey  
Governor of Arizona  
1700 West Washington Street  
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Dear Governor Ducey:

At your request, the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) has been monitoring the public health data indicating the resolution of the outbreak and prompting an end to the incident period for the COVID-19 Emergency which began on March 11, 2020. I am writing to advise you that key metrics and strategies have been achieved in the COVID-19 emergency response that would indicate that the current Public Health Emergency can be ended.

ADHS established COVID-Like Illness (CLI) in Arizona emergency department and inpatient wards as the key metric to determine current outbreak status, with a 2% CLI level indicating a return to baseline levels and the end of the current outbreak period. The CLI metric is not affected by changes in testing patterns and has remained a good representation of total COVID-19 case burden for the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic. Our most recent reporting of data shows CLI to be 1.3%, falling below the baseline level established by ADHS for ending the current COVID-19 outbreak period.

In addition, COVID-19 cases have fallen 99% to 2,054 cases reported the week of March 20, 2022, as compared to 151,312 cases the week of January 9, 2022. Hospitalizations associated with COVID-19 decreased to 5% of inpatient beds and 7% of ICU beds during the week of March 15, 2022 compared to 57% of inpatient beds and 63% of ICU beds at the peak of COVID-19 hospitalizations in January 2021. Additionally, no Arizona hospital is currently operating in crisis standards of care.

Further, numerous mitigation measures have occurred. More than 70% of Arizonans have received at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine and 60% of all Arizonans are fully vaccinated against COVID-19. Vaccines and therapeutics are now available throughout Arizona. Interventions and precautions have been identified and implemented to mitigate and/or prevent COVID-19 spread.

Douglas A. Ducey | Governor    Don Herrington | Interim Director

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Finally, we have been in close communication with the Department of Emergency and Military Affairs, specifically the Division of Emergency Management, and they also support an end to the Public Health Operational period.

For the foregoing reasons, we at the Arizona Department of Health Services recommend ending the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency.

Sincerely,

  
Don Herrington  
Interim Director

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