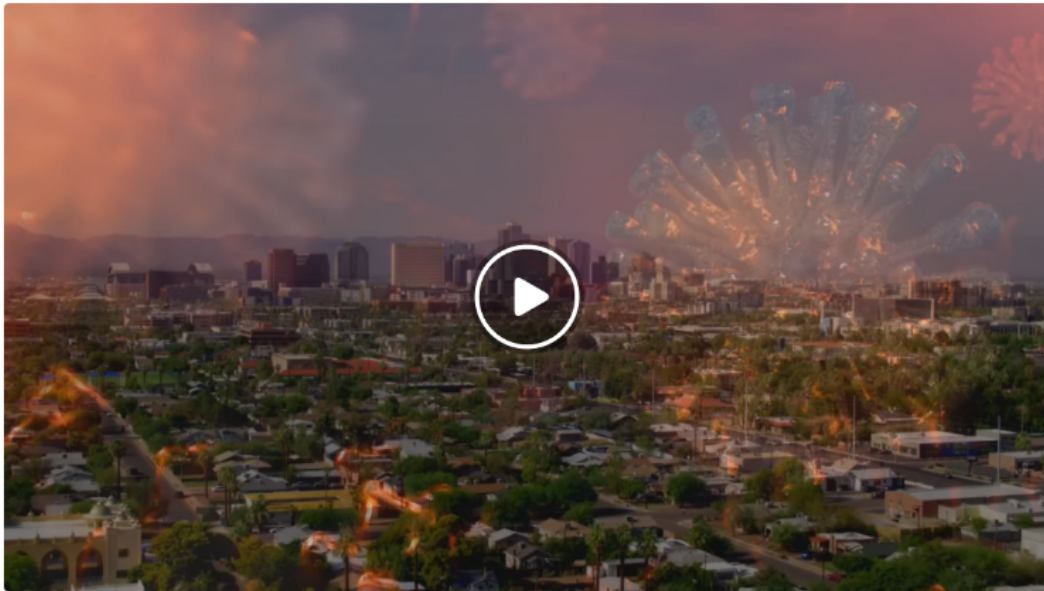


Arizona sets daily record with over 12,300 new coronavirus cases Tuesday

JESSICA GOODMAN, SPENCER BLAKE

🕒 POSTED DEC 8, 2020



Tuesday marked the day with the highest number of newly reported COVID-19 cases in Arizona. State health officials reported 12,314 new cases on Tuesday, the single highest daily number of cases since the start of the pandemic.



PHOENIX (3TV/CBS 5) -- Tuesday marked the day with the highest number of newly reported COVID-19 cases in Arizona.

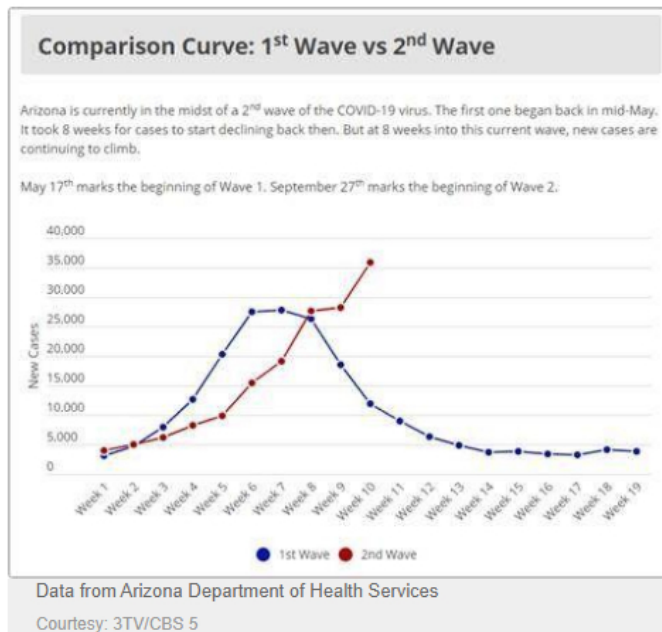
State health officials reported 12,314 new cases on Tuesday, the single highest daily number of cases since the start of the pandemic. That figure was inflated by delayed reporting over the Thanksgiving weekend.

The vast majority of the cases reported today were from swabs collected last week.

The last highest day was on Dec. 1 with 10,322 new cases, following the Thanksgiving weekend holiday. The majority of Tuesday's cases from Maricopa County which also had its highest number of single-day reported cases since the pandemic began at 9,284.

Arizona's case total increased to 378,157. The state also reported 23 additional deaths, increasing that total to 6,973. Health officials before Thanksgiving warned that gatherings of more than one household would increase the virus' already strong spread. The state's coronavirus dashboard indicates that the number of hospitalized coronavirus patients is approaching peak levels during last summer's surge.

Arizona is currently in its second wave of coronavirus. The below chart compares the number of new cases we saw in the first wave with the second wave.



"It's a number you see that makes you fall out of your chair," said Arizona Medical Association President Dr. Ross Goldberg. "This is the beginning of things that we're going to be very careful watching for the next couple of weeks."

Those weeks could be crucial, because [projections from PolicyLab at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia](#) show that Maricopa County's numbers could come close to doubling in the next month.

"Obviously that's always a possibility given how things are going," Goldberg said.

Arizona's second wave looks like it will [last longer than the summer spike](#), which started to trend back down after 8 weeks; we're already in week 11 of the second wave, yet numbers are still surging upward.

"So you have a surge upon a surge, and then before you can handle that more people are going to travel over Christmas," said Dr. Anthony Fauci, the nation's leading infectious disease expert. "You could start to see things get really bad in the middle of January."

Goldberg says we have to stay strong for the last mile or so of this marathon, but he's worried we're already repeating the trends from the [Spanish Flu Pandemic of 1918](#) rather than learning from history.

In addition to the record-breaking amount of cases, Arizona Department of Health Services' Dr. Cara Christ announced on her [blog](#) that their [dashboard](#) now shows the number of total tests

conducted in the state.

"We've added some new data points into a new laboratory section showing information about the total tests conducted, including the total number of newly reported tests, the total number of tests conducted overall, and the number of tests newly reported that day. Similar to the section showing unique people tested, you can also see the tests conducted per day and select to view the total tests conducted by each of the counties. It also displays the percent positivity using the results from all tests reported through electronic lab reporting (ELR). A person will still only be counted once in the case counts, regardless of how many tests they have taken. As you look at the new data points, compared to the summer, Arizona is exceeding the number of tests performed on a daily basis."
