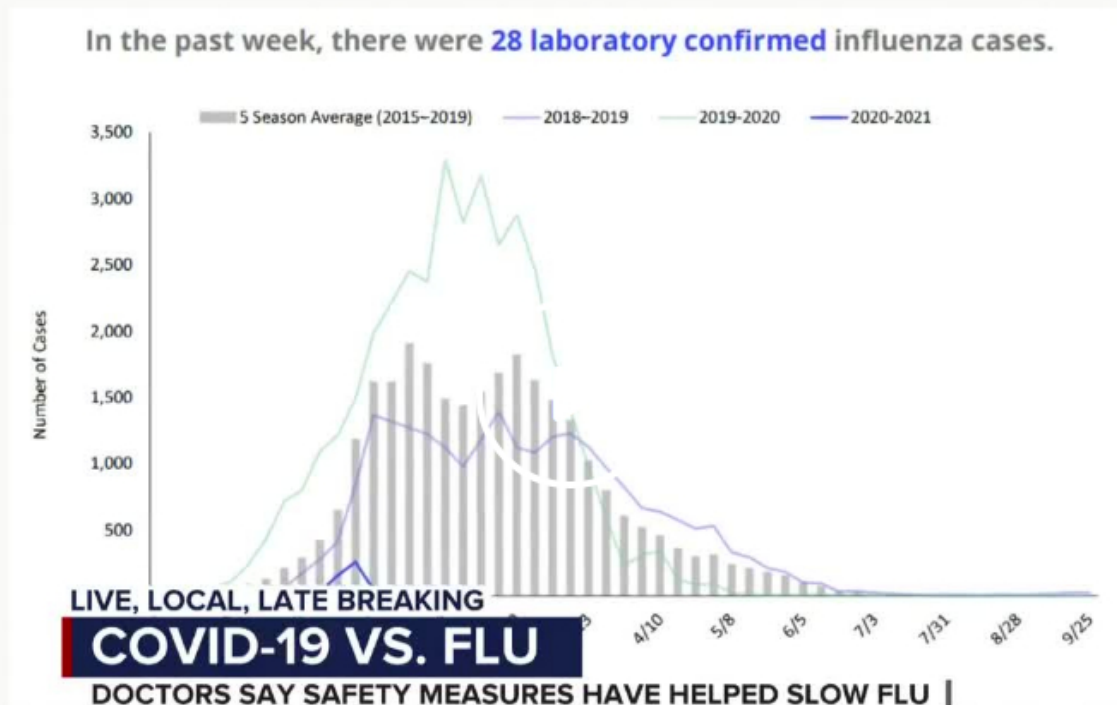


How COVID-19 compares to the seasonal flu

Arizona sees drop in flu cases



How COVID-19 compares to the seasonal flu



By [Jasmine Ramirez](#) | January 14, 2021 at 4:51 PM MST - Updated January 17 at 2:29 PM



TUCSON, Ariz. (KOLD News 13) - As COVID-19 cases continue to climb in our state, flu numbers do not. The Arizona Department of Health Services reports having 692 lab-confirmed cases in the state for the season, compared to 10,713 cases at this same point last flu season.



“It makes sense because of all the mitigation strategies we’ve laid out as a community. All the social distancing, hand hygiene and wearing a facial mask,” said Dr. Sudha Nagalingam, the medical director for the HIV and Infectious Disease Clinic at El Rio.

Arizona Medical Association President Dr. Ross Goldberg said the decrease in flu numbers is not from a COVID misdiagnosis.

“Some people are saying that’s because you are choosing everything with COVID. Well, I can tell you in our hospital, we test for flu and COVID to rule out both,” Goldberg said.

Another difference between the flu and COVID, doctors are finding many COVID patients are facing long-term health issues.

“This group called the long-haulers who have prolonged symptoms. It’s not your normal respiratory issues. There are people with neurological problems, heart problems with damage to the heart muscle,” Goldberg said.

Plus, the death rate of COVID is much higher. Data from the Arizona Department of Health Services shows 162 Arizonans died from influenza last season. Meanwhile, more than 10,850 Arizonans have lost their lives to COVID since last March, according to [ADHS data](#) on Thursday.

“The mortality rate is about 1.7% for COVID right now in Arizona,” Goldberg said. “You’re like so what. It’s not a big number but the analogy I give is, I’ll give you 100 pieces of candy, two of them will kill you but I don’t tell you which two. Are you really going to eat the candy?”

Updated: 11:44 a.m., Mar. 7

SOUTHERN ARIZONA VACCINE TRACKER

VACCINE PHASE BY COUNTY

PIMA COUNTY: PRIORITY 1B

PINAL COUNTY: PRIORITY 1B

SANTA CRUZ: PHASE 1B

COCHISE COUNTY: PRIORITY 1B

GRAHAM COUNTY: PRIORITY 1B



PHASE DESCRIPTION

(From AZ State Health Department)

PHASE 1A

Healthcare workers, long-term care facility staff and residents.

PHASE 1B (ONGOING)

Education and childcare workers, protective services, adults 65 and up, essential services workers, adults with high-risk conditions living in congregate settings.

PHASE 1C (SPRING 2021)

Adults with high-risk medical conditions and adults living in congregate settings.

PHASE 2 (SPRING-SUMMER 2021)

Additional high-risk or critical populations, general public

PHASE 3 (SUMMER 2021-BEYOND)

Rest of general public.

VACCINATIONS BY COUNTY

Pima County: 307,351 Vaccinated, 117,969 residents fully vaccinated

Pinal County: 92,735 Vaccinated, 30,544 residents fully vaccinated

Santa Cruz: 16,615 Vaccinated, 5,843 residents fully vaccinated

Cochise County: 34,423 Vaccinated, 10,486 residents fully vaccinated

Graham County: 7,265 Vaccinated, 2,626 residents fully vaccinated

HOW TO CHECK YOUR STATUS

*** FOR PIMA COUNTY 520-222-0119 or <http://tucsonne.ws/38098CI> ***

Vaccination Patient Portal (<https://podvaccine.azdhs.gov/>)

- 1) Check where you fall on the state's vaccination schedule by going to <https://directorsblog.health.azdhs.gov/vaccine-prioritization-in-arizona/>
- 2) Get on a computer and go to <https://podvaccine.azdhs.gov/>
- 3) Create an account or log back in.
- 4) Look for locations in your area and select an appointment date/time