

SPECIAL EDITION NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

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THE GRIN



SPECIAL EDITION

GILA RIVER INDIAN NEWS || www.GRICNEWS.org

JULY 10, 2020

COVID-19 Pandemic Hits Younger GRIC Members Hard: Governor Lewis Asks the Young to Take Pandemic Seriously

As the COVID-19 pandemic spikes in Arizona, cases continue to rise among younger people in particular. While early conversations about the pandemic may have given those under the age of 45 the sense that COVID-19 does not impact them, current analysis shows that young people, too, can get COVID-19 and can suffer serious health impacts.

The most recent data available about positive COVID-19 tests with the Gila River Indian Community shows that the vast majority of cases have afflicted Community members under the age of 45 – with about 67 percent of the positive tests impacting younger Community members.

“We need our younger people to take this pandemic very seriously,” said Governor Stephen Roe Lewis.

“We need them to obey the executive orders I’ve issued to shelter in place and to mask up, not just for the safety of their elders and families but also

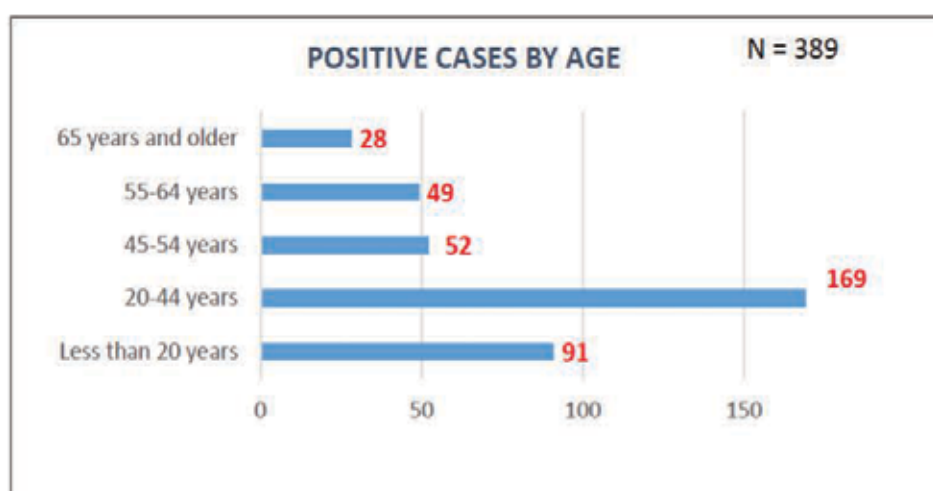
for their own safety. COVID-19 is a dangerous attacker – and all of us in the Community are under attack no matter how old we are.”

The trend of younger people getting infected also holds true at a state level. The numbers of confirmed coronavirus cases in Arizona has now surpassed 100,000, and younger people, not the elderly, make up more than half of them, state health officials explained earlier this week.

The Department of Health Services said more than 62,000 of the 101,441 reported cases involve people younger than 44, according to the Associated Press.

DHS Director Dr. Cara Christ said it’s people between 20 and 44 who can drive community spread of COVID-19. Younger people have a much lower risk of serious illness from the virus, although some do get very sick or die.

“That’s the biggest concern, is that they’re not at risk, they’re out in public potentially getting exposed,” Christ said. “They’re



Source: GRIC COVID-19 Data Report, 7/7/20

also more likely to be asymptomatic or only have mild symptoms, and then potentially could bring it home to an individual who’s at high risk for complications.”

“It’s a huge fear,” said Christ.

Governor Lewis urged younger people specifically to act like the next generation of leaders for the Community.

“We are hearing from public health officials that our younger members

haven’t been social distancing or wearing masks,” said Lewis.

“This is a great disappointment. You must recognize you have a responsibility to others and you must take this seriously. We need each of you to lead by example. Wear your masks, stay at home whenever possible, socially distance, and wash your hands frequently. We need your help to beat this virus.”

Arizona Republic Profiles Charlie Aragon, Younger Community Member Nearly Killed by COVID-19

Charlie Aragon, a 35-year-old GRIC member and avid weightlifter, made news this week after nearly losing his life to COVID-19. Aragon works for the Community’s government and lives on the Reservation with his mother and father and young son. He’s back at home now after a lengthy battle with COVID-19 that nearly killed him.

The state’s largest newspaper reported at length about the damage the virus did to Aragon’s body - including a massive weight

loss, stripping him of his muscle mass. As the Republic put it in this excerpt:

Aragon lost nearly 60 pounds off his 5-foot-9, 247-pound frame when he was in the hospital and though it’s been two months since his release, he still struggles with weakness and has not regained all the weight he lost.

“I was the last person I ever thought would get sick from this,” Aragon said.

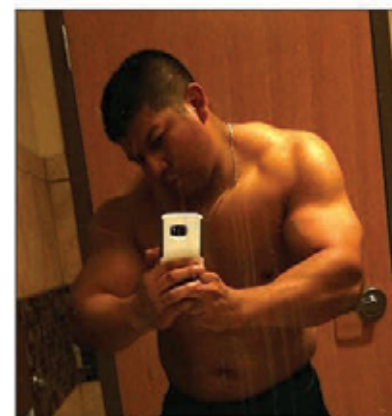
Phoenix critical care physician Dr. Jennifer O’Hea, who treated Aragon at Banner - University Medical Center Phoenix, said she’s found that recovery times for people who

have been seriously sick with COVID-19 are lengthy — in general at least three times as long as the patient was hospitalized, if not longer.

Aragon had to dial 911 in early April, according to the newspaper. An ambulance transported him to the hospital in Phoenix, where he spent the next 20 days in the ICU. He developed sepsis, he told the paper, which nearly took his life.

“He did have a bout of sepsis and that is not uncommon. Especially when the patient is on the ventilator. Their risk of ventilator-associated pneumonia goes up,” Dr. O’Hea told the Republic.

“Just being in the ICU, having multiple catheters in your body, patients are at risk for those catheters getting infected, too.”



Source: Charlie Aragon Facebook page

Aragon told the newspaper that he’s looking forward to returning to the gym and lifting weights – and to taking his 5-year-old son to play video games at Dave & Busters. He also hopes his story will help others take the pandemic more seriously – especially young people who may believe they’re invincible.

“While I was in (the hospital) the palliative team had called my family and they had told them basically, “What do you want us to do if he passes or if things get worse?”, Aragon told the Republic and reporter Stephanie Innes.

“I know usually the palliative team doesn’t call unless it’s really serious.”

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GRIC Pandemic Do's and Don'ts As Cases Continue to Spike

Please be aware that the Executive Orders signed by Governor Lewis still remain in effect and are being enforced by the Gila River Police Department. Pursuant to those orders, all Community Members must:

- ❑ **Stay at home and shelter in place unless performing essential activities.** Permitted essential activities include seeking medical care or assisting others to get medical care; providing care for a family member, friend or animal in another household; obtaining food or necessary household supplies; engaging in outdoor activities like exercise while observing physical distancing; attending work for essential functions; or traveling to and from work.

This Executive Order is set to remain in effect until at least August 2, 2020.

- ❑ **Keep in mind that per Executive Order No. 5,** all tribal government offices will remain closed until at least August 2, 2020.
- ❑ **Follow Executive Order No. 8,** which orders the wearing of face coverings by all residents or non-residents on the Gila River reservation.

First-time violators of the face covering directive will receive a written warning. Those who violate the order more than once will be given a citation under the Community's Criminal Code. Non-members of the Community who violate the mandate more than once will be cited for Civil Trespass.

If you have a medical or clinical question about COVID-19, please call the Gila River Healthcare Coronavirus Hotline around the clock at (520) 550-6079.

If you would like to speak with someone about general information, contact Gila River Health Care Corporation Public Information Officer Veronica Z. Vaughn at (520) 610-6052.

If you want to receive pandemic updates by text message, please text GILARIVER to 797979 for real-time updates.



To help mitigate the spread, please do the following:

- ❑ **WASH YOUR HANDS** often and thoroughly with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.
- ❑ **AVOID TOUCHING** your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- ❑ **COVER YOUR COUGHS & SNEEZES** with a tissue or cough or sneeze in your sleeve.
- ❑ **AVOID SHARING** household items with a person who is ill with a respiratory illness.
- ❑ **CLEAN ALL SURFACES** such as counters, tabletops, doorknobs, bathroom fixtures, toilets, phones, keyboards, tablets, & bedside tables daily.
- ❑ **MONITOR YOUR SYMPTOMS** if you have a cough, fever and are having trouble breathing, please contact your health care provider and take steps to keep other people from getting infected.

**If we work together, we can save lives
and keep our families healthy. Let's
all be #GilaRiverStrong.**

**STAY HOME
SAVE LIVES**

PROTECT OUR COMMUNITY

We are Gila River Strong.
I am doing my part to stop the
spread of COVID-19.

**WHAT WILL YOU DO TO
#STOPTHESPREAD**

JAHMKAL DISTRICT 1



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Stephen Roe Lewis

Lt. Governor
Robert Stone

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Joey Whitman

District 2
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District 3
Avery White
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Charles Goldtooth

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Robert Keller, Tribal Treasurer
Shannon White,
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Latest COVID-19 Report



Tribal Health Department

433 W. Sand Farm Road Sacaton, Arizona 85147
Phone: (520) 562-5100 • Fax: (520) 562-5106

COVID-19 Data Report

*Data current as of 07/09/2020 6:00pm

Completed Tests

**Total Tests = 36,612

	Count**	% of total
Number not detected (negative)	33,061	90%
Number pending	1,995	5%

** Count includes GRHC Patients, GRHC Employees, GRIC Dept and Enterprise Employees, and retests

Positive Case Information

*Count does not include retests

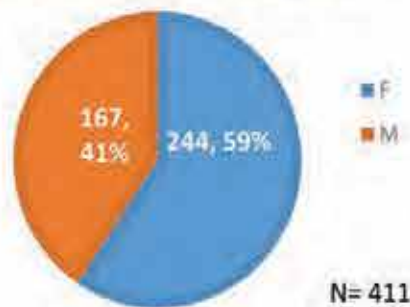
	GRIC			GRIC Enrolled Member Deaths
	Enrolled Member	Non-Member	Total	
Residing within GRIC boundary	349	62	411	9
Not Residing within GRIC boundary	117	679	796	1
*Total	466	741	1207	10

Positive Cases Residing within GRIC boundary by District



Positive Cases Residing within GRIC boundary by Gender and Age

POSITIVE CASES BY GENDER



POSITIVE CASES BY AGE



Tribal Health Department Data Report

***Information provided in the above report is intended to be a general summary of statistical information about the Gila River Indian Community COVID-19 findings as of the date of this writing and not intended for use for any other purposes.

All information in this report is subject to change.



**WEAR A FACE MASK!
IT'S REQUIRED**

1ST Violation - written warning

2ND Violation - citation under Community's Criminal Code

Gila River Indian Community Executive Order No. 8 requires all persons 2 years+ wear a face mask in all public areas of the Community! Stop the spread of COVID-19!



HELP STOP THE SPREAD OF COVID-19

We're All In This Together
#GILARIVERSTRONG

PREVENT THE SPREAD OF COVID-19

Do your part to protect your loved ones and our Community
CLOTH MASKS ARE STILL AVAILABLE TO GRIC MEMBERS!



Community members can pick up cloth mask by visiting your closest District Service Center. While supplies last! | Must present tribal ID.

New mask pickup schedule

District 1 Service Center	Mon-Fri	9:00am - 1:00pm	(520) 215-2110
District 2 Service Center	Mon-Fri	8:00am - 5:00pm	(520) 562-3450
District 3 Service Center	Mon-Fri	4:00pm - 6:00pm	(520) 562-3334
District 4 Service Center	Mon-Fri	8:00am - 4:00pm	(520) 418-8861
District 5 Service Center	Mon-Fri	1:00pm - 5:00pm	(520) 351-3441
District 6 Service Center	Tues-Fri	1:00pm - 5:00pm	(520) 550-3805
District 7 Service Center	Mon-Fri	1:00pm - 6:00pm	(520) 430-4780

GRIC URBAN Members: Please call or email your urban center location
Your contact will arrange a time to distribute your mask:

Phoenix location contact:
602-244-9927 or
GilaRiverUMA@gmail.com

Casa Grande location contact:
602-769-6512 or
carolyn.laborin@gric.rion.us



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District 2
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GRHC.org/CORONAVIRUS - GRHC Coronavirus Hotline: 520.550.6079



STAY HOME SAVE LIVES

PROTECT OUR ELDERLY

I pledge to Stay Home for my Community, I am doing my part to stop the spread of COVID-19.

**WHAT WILL YOU DO TO
#STOPTHESPREAD**

CARRIE J. DISTRICT 1




EXECUTIVE ORDER NO.5

Amended Executive Order No. 5 Extends Partial Closure of all Gila River Indian Community government departments and offices until August 2, 2020.

The extended closure is to address the recent surge of COVID-19 cases in Arizona

Disclaimer:

The closure excludes departments which provides essential services to the Community



**We're All In This Together
#GILARIVERSTRONG**

