



19803 R. H. Johnson Blvd.
Sun City West, AZ 85375
www.suncitywest.com
www.facebook.com/suncitywest

PRESS RELEASE

10/5/20

Rec Centers updates community on COVID policies

The Recreation Centers of Sun City West management team continues to track local and state COVID cases as it determines the future timing of reopening the Association's facilities and events.

The Arizona Department of Health Services on Oct. 1 announced all counties have met the metrics to reopen safely. ADHS's Business Dashboard reports Maricopa County is in a "Moderate" transmission range. Two of the metrics are in "Minimal" range, but cases per 100,000 individuals is still above 5 percent. That allows for businesses to open at 50 percent capacity.

The Rec Centers uses the state business guidance, as well as information from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in making determinations about reopening. Of particular importance is the community's average age of 74, as well as the number of snowbirds and visiting grandchildren who usually arrive in the community during the fall and winter.

According to an Oct. 1 Associated Press story, COVID infections are "surging in the Midwest, (with) some hospitals in Wisconsin and North Dakota running low on space. Midwestern states are seeing some of the nation's highest per capita rates of infection ..."

Many of Sun City West's snowbirds hail from the Midwest, as well as from Canada, which also is seeing an uptick. "Canada is seeing a sharp rise in cases of COVID-19, alarming health officials and triggering a second round of lockdowns and strict distancing recommendations," the Wall Street Journal reported on Sept. 29.

States whose students have gone back to in-person learning, as much of Arizona has done, also are seeing new increases in cases.

"Without a crystal ball, we are doing our best to interpret all of these factors and the various projections for COVID cases in our state as we make our decisions," said RCSCW General Manager Bill Schwind. "So we are sticking to our current policy of not allowing guests at this time. Additionally, we continue to enforce Maricopa County's mask mandate, as well as Gov. Ducey's order that there be no gatherings with more than 50 people."

With many of the community's clubs reopened, there is increasing demand for more social events, meetings and gathering opportunities. "Because of all the trends we're seeing across the state, the nation and North America, we continue to prohibit these gatherings until further notice," Schwind said.

Toward that end, the Rec Centers has removed tables and chairs in areas that attract groups. Those tables and chairs that remain should not be pushed together or moved.

Additionally, the Rec Centers is not scheduling tournaments, special events or arts and crafts sales that encourage gathering; this includes Rec Centers' sponsored events and club events. All such events through at least November have been canceled. The goal is to keep residents safe and ensure capacity at each facility is below 50 percent occupancy to keep the Association in compliance with state mandates.

"We are as hopeful as our clubs that life will get back to normal as soon as possible. We're just not there yet," said Schwind.

For the latest on the Rec Centers' openings and closures for both clubs and facilities, as well as all the latest COVID-related press releases, please visit suncitywest.com/covid19.