

No images? [Click here](#)



---

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**November 18, 2020**

Jessie Butler  
*Director of Communications  
and External Relations*  
[jbutler@flytucson.com](mailto:jbutler@flytucson.com)  
520.573.4835 (office)  
520.904.5141 (cell)

Craig Reck  
Public Information Administrator  
[creck@flytucson.com](mailto:creck@flytucson.com)  
520.573.4873 (office)  
520.904.5316 (cell)

## **Ahead of Thanksgiving, New COVID-19 Testing Site Opens November 20 at Tucson International Airport**

Just in time for Thanksgiving travel, Pima County Health Department and the Tucson Airport Authority have partnered to provide free COVID-19 testing to individuals traveling through Tucson International Airport (TUS).

The TUS Testing Center will be located in the baggage claim area near baggage carousel #5. Testing will begin Friday, November 20 from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. every Friday through Monday. The site is aimed at providing early testing to travelers arriving at the airport. Passengers are able to schedule appointments conveniently with the help of QR codes posted throughout the terminal.

“Having this service available to travelers coming in to our community will allow them to make smart decisions about their plans after they arrive,” said Health Department Director Dr. Theresa Cullen. “While people should not travel while they are sick, this site will provide early results for those coming into our community who may have symptoms or may be worried about their exposure to others.”

While the new site is free and open to anyone, the site’s main goal is to provide fast and convenient testing to those who travel through and work at TUS. The testing is being conducted by Paradigm Laboratories. Results will be available in 72 hours or less and can be accessed through Paradigm’s easy-to-use online portal.

“We are happy to announce this partnership, which will allow free testing to all travelers and employees at the Tucson International Airport,” said TAA President and CEO Danette Bewley. “Whether you are arriving or departing from TUS, you will have the opportunity to get tested to help protect loved ones especially as we approach the holiday season.”

To learn more about COVID-19 in Pima County, visit [www.pima.gov/covid19](http://www.pima.gov/covid19). For other free testing sites throughout Pima County go to [www.pima.gov/covid19testing](http://www.pima.gov/covid19testing)

To learn more about COVID-19 travel information for the Tucson International Airport and

the airlines it serves, visit <https://www.flytucson.com/when-you-are-ready-to-fly-we-are-here-for-you/>.

**Media availability:** Both TAA and PCHD will have representatives available on site for interviews. Please reach out to one of the designated contacts below to confirm you can make one of these time frames for comments: 11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. or 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

**Media sensitivity:** Anyone scheduled for an appointment and in line at the terminal is technically considered a patient of Pima County Health Department. Patients being tested are blocked by dividers, while those in line are visible to the passing public. With their privacy in mind, we ask all new photographs and videos be respectful of these patients and avoid identifying images. Please keep your coverage nondescript unless a specific individual gives you permission.

**Media Contacts:**

Pima County – Aaron Pacheco; [aaron.pacheco@pima.gov](mailto:aaron.pacheco@pima.gov); (520) 940-5387

Tucson Airport Authority – Craig Reck; [creck@flytucson.com](mailto:creck@flytucson.com); (520) 573-4873

The Tucson Airport Authority (TAA) is an independent, non-profit organization operating Tucson International Airport (TUS) and general aviation reliever Ryan Airfield (RYN). TAA has sustained its operations since its origin in 1948 from airport generated revenues without the use of local taxes, and continues to invest millions of dollars each year in safety, security and facility infrastructure that drives job creation and economic activity for the benefit of Tucson and southern Arizona. The two airports currently support 35,000 jobs and house more than 100 tenants, and serve a diverse mix of aviation and non-aviation related businesses, as well as military and government operations.