

Update: Banner Health leader provides latest info on COVID-19 hospitalizations, vaccinations

Marjorie Bessel, MD, chief clinical officer of Banner Health gives update on surges, vaccines, elective surgeries and visiting policies

PHOENIX (Feb. 17, 2021) – Today, Marjorie Bessel, MD, chief clinical officer at Banner Health addressed COVID-19 topics during a virtual press conference. Topics included: hospital capacity and staffing, resumption of elective surgeries and the need to maintain masking and social distancing.

Earlier this week, Bessel was recognized as a [national healthcare leader](#) for her work surrounding COVID-19.

VIDEO: [Feb. 17, 2021 press conference](#)

Please email media@bannerhealth.com for additional questions. As our medical experts are focused on patient care and the pandemic response, Dr. Bessel will not be available for additional interviews.

[CONTENT: Six vaccine myths explained](#)


[VIDEO: B-roll of Banner COVID-ICU](#)

[VIDEO: B-roll of vaccinations at Arizona State Fairgrounds](#)

“ Our Arizona ICUs remain busy, currently at an occupancy 10% higher than what we would see at the peak of a normal winter. Some Banner ICUs are still operating at 150% of their licensed bed capacity. ”

For further information: media@bannerhealth.com

 **[Transcripts of Dr. Bessel's opening remarks](#)**
(104 KB)

 **[Q and A transcript](#)**
(32 KB)

<https://stage.mediaroom.com/bannerhealth/bannerCOVIDpressconference>