

[Banner Thunderbird & Estrella Discharge 1,000+ COVID-19 Patients](#)

Survivors include teen on ventilator for five days, woman with moderate symptoms

Media Kit Log

0:00 – 2:00 **SOT** Banner Estrella Patient Interview (English via interpreter; transcript below)
2:05 – 3:14 **B-Roll** Banner Estrella 1000th Patient Discharge
3:19 – 3:58 **B-Roll** Banner Thunderbird Patient Discharge (Banner Children's at Thunderbird)
3:58 – 6:24 **B-Roll** Banner Thunderbird Patient Undergoing Physical Therapy
6:29 – 9:00 **SOT** Banner Thunderbird Patient Interview (Spanish; transcript below)
9:06 – 11:18 **B-Roll** Banner Thunderbird Staff Celebration
11:23 – 12:56 **SOT** Banner Thunderbird CEO Sound Bites (transcript below)

Maria Castillo-Gutierrez
COVID-19 Survivor
Banner Estrella Medical Center

You're from Phoenix?

Yes, Phoenix Arizona. I've been here a week.

What's it been like?

It's been good. They take care of people well here.

What indicated to you that you needed to come to the hospital?

I had a cough, but I didn't know that I had COVID.

What did you think when you found out?

I had a headache and I had nausea, but I didn't know what I had. // I thought I needed to come to the hospital and immediately.

Are you glad you did?

Yes.

What would you tell others in the community about the seriousness of COVID-19?

Just for them to take care of themselves.

Does it feel good to be going home and be the 1,000th person to leave?

Yes. Yes.

Brian Aguayo
17-year-old COVID-19 Survivor
Banner Children's at Thunderbird Medical Center

How do you feel?

Pues me siento muy bien la verdad. Usted de todas partes cómo.

How were your 12 days here?

Pues fue, sí, fue duro, muy difícil. La verdad.

What does it mean to have your mom by your side the entire time?

Pues fue significa mucho tener la aquí a mi lado.

Are you eager to get back to life, normal?

Oh, yeah. Yo estoy listo y listo para... Oy!

With COVID-19, you had MIS-C, the respiratory illness we are seeing in kids? Has that made you more tired?

Pues, me siento un poco más cansado.

What's it like today to stand and walk around versus yesterday?

Pues, ahora sí me siento agraciado.

You're stronger, day by day? (in Spanish)

Sí. Sí.

What will you tell your friends about this disease or your family?

Sí, familia. Tengo mucho.

Have they been thinking about you?

Sí, me hablado con mucha de mi familia.

Are you a senior in high school? Are you going to go back and start or take a couple weeks?

No, no estamos seguros de eso todavía y había bueno ya y había empezado pero me pasó esto y y tuvimos que llamar la escuela para decir que no podré podría presentarme en un parte en el tiempo.

Debbie Flores
Chief Executive Officer
Banner Thunderbird Medical Center

When you ask the staff what is meaningful about that, they say they feel accomplished, like the work that they've done for the last several months has made a difference. When you have patients that are very, very sick, and oftentimes not making it out of the hospital, it becomes very stressful on the staff. So to know that you have saved 1,000 lives makes it so meaningful, and makes it feel like your work was worth what you, the effort that you put into it.

The best thing you can do is keep yourself safe. Keep you, yourself, and your family safe by masking up, washing your hands, keeping your social distancing. You know, in a time when it feels like it might be over, people tend to get a little lax. And it's so important that we continue to stay consistent with the masking, the handwashing, and the social distancing. Because all we have to do is not do those things. And then we will be back to seeing high numbers of COVID positive patients.

We are a safe place to receive care. And that is important. So patients should not feel uncomfortable scheduling their surgeries or coming to us. And again, it's important that we all, as part of a bigger community, stick with the rules of masking, hand hygiene, and social distancing, so we can continue to give people the access to care like they need.

For more information: media@bannerhealth.com | [bannerhealth.com/newsroom](https://www.bannerhealth.com/newsroom)

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