FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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Statement from Flagstaff Mayor Evans, Phoenix Mayor Gallego, and Tucson Mayor Romero: Arizona Should Follow CDC Guidelines on Reopening

PHOENIX- The state is just over 24 hours away from the end of Governor Ducey’s Stay at Home Order. The Governor has not yet offered clear guidance as to whether this order will be extended, modified, or end fully. As Mayors representing the largest cities in each region of our state, we ask that the Governor adhere to the guidelines set forth by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) as we look to safely reopen the economy and protect Arizonans. The state must be able to provide clear data showing that we have achieved a 14-day decline in COVID cases before the economy begins to reopen.

To achieve a two-week decline in COVID cases will require a significant ramping up of statewide testing. We applaud the Governor’s recent action to expand testing to a larger segment of the population. The data collected from these tests will be critical in determining our ability to safely reopen the economy without unnecessarily imperiling the lives of our residents.

We’ve seen other communities who have reopened too soon and paid the price in both public health and with a second economic shut down. We do not want that to happen in Arizona. Increasing testing and using that data collected to track our progress against CDC guidelines provides the safest route forward as we navigate these unchartered waters.

We are all eager to reopen the economy as soon as it is safe to do so. We again ask the Governor to work closely with cities on COVID resiliency efforts. Our cities’ first responders are tasked with carrying out any statewide executive orders and the more time they have to prepare the better chance we have to keep our police, fire, and residents safe and healthy.