



Ready to Protect,
Proud to Serve

NEWS RELEASE

Chris Magnus
Chief of Police

Contact: Pete Dugan
Sergeant / Public Information Office
520-837-7741
On-call PIO: tpdpio@tucsonaz.gov

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TDD: 520-791-2639

TPD WARNS OF CONSEQUENCES FOR FAILURE TO OBSERVE CORONA VIRUS PRECAUTIONS

Tucson Police Chief Chris Magnus today warned of consequences for people who thoughtlessly host large social gatherings while local and state emergency orders, including the Governor's "Stay Home" order, which was issued this afternoon, are in place. Not surprisingly, **house parties are not listed as an "essential activity" in his order.** Activities other than those deemed "essential" are specifically prohibited (attendees not remaining in their own homes nor maintaining the prescribed distancing). Attendees at such a party could be charged with violating A.R.S. §26-317, a class 1 misdemeanor.

Noting that the department is ready to enforce social distancing using state statutes, the red tag ordinance, or possibly new ordinances with the help of the City Attorney and the Mayor and Council, Chief Magnus said, "The worst consequence would be if you pass this virus on to someone who has a serious illness or dies as a result. That could be a family member, a friend, or someone you've never met. Although it's especially dangerous for older people and people with certain underlying conditions, this coronavirus can have serious consequences for anyone, regardless of age or health. No matter who you are, you are not immune."

Primarily, the police response to people who unknowingly violate emergency orders is to provide them with a warning and education on the importance of social distancing. However, scofflaws who clearly should know better will not receive the same consideration.

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