

Greenlee Clarion

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The Greenlee Clarion

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Greenlee County social media

To keep track of activities going on in Greenlee County, you will want to follow our pages on Facebook and other social media. Follow, like, comment and add to the conversation.

Facebook pages:

[Greenlee Clarion](#)

[Growing Greenlee](#)

[Greenlee County](#)

[Greenlee County Tourism](#)

[Greenlee County Natural Wonders](#)

Other social media

[GreenleeAz2020](#) (Instagram)

[GrowingGreenlee](#) (Twitter)

July Clarion

Deadline for submitting articles for the July Clarion is June 25. The issue will be published on June 30.

COVID-19 What have we learned?

By Ákos Kovach

As with any story there are at least two sides with varying degrees of support and or interest.

For the vulnerable (individuals with underlying weakened immune systems, age and other at-risk or high-risk categories the threat posed by infection is very real. To those who feel convinced ‘this is just another flu’ all the attention, focus on wearing masks and business shut-down is an over-reaction.

Somewhere there is a wise person who will bridge this gap in some eloquent essay, this is not that composition. This assessment is based on local observation and local response.

First this writer wishes to commend the stalwart efforts of the Greenlee County Health Dept. Bar none, this group of professionals and their strategic partners at Gila Health Resources, Canyonlands & Mt Graham Regional Hospital have been clear in their messaging and transparent in delivering a daily update – mostly good news but sometimes sad. We thank you.

The Greenlee County Health Department publishes an end-of-day report every evening on their Facebook page. How many tests have been administered, how many test results are pending, how many negative and positive results have been detected.

The messaging has been excellent, practice good hygiene protocols, avoid obviously ill people, if you are not well distance yourself from others. Don’t go to work or public places, be considerate of others health.

Young or old, child or senior, anyone can contract COVID 19. So be smart. Respect the right of others to wear masks and act cautiously. We are so fortunate to live in an area like Greenlee County. Big outdoors, big forests, running rivers, places to hike, bike and wander on trails. We must stay alert and be considerate, at the end of the day, not so difficult is it?

On the Cover

On Memorial Day, FMI’s Industrial Railroad dedicated the Morenci 9 Locomotive in honor of our nation’s military and veterans. Turn to page 7 to see the entire locomotive.

Lorem Ipsum



Encourage others on Census

If you are one of the 27.5 percent of the population of Greenlee County who has responded to the 2020 Census, you can now encourage others to do so as well.

Your voice can make a difference, the Census Bureau says, and that agency has made it easy for you to share interesting facts, true stories, and how-to guides on your social media to underscore the importance of responding to the census.

While participation in the 2020 Census is mandated by the Constitution, the Census Bureau is required by law to protect your answers. Your responses are used only to produce statistics, and the Census Bureau does not disclose any personal information.

To see the daily percentages of returns on the Census, [go to a site](#) that the Census Bureau has set up.

It will show numbers for the county, Clifton, Duncan and the three census districts within Greenlee County.

Arizona
Self-Response
56.8%

Greenlee
Self-Response
27.5%



These numbers show that, as of May 29, Greenlee County has a lot of catching up to do.

2020 Census Total Self-Response

Responses received through: 5/29/2020

National Response Rate	
Total Response:	89,300,000 <small>(households)</small>
Total:	60.4%
Internet:	48.6%
Daily Change:	▲0.1%

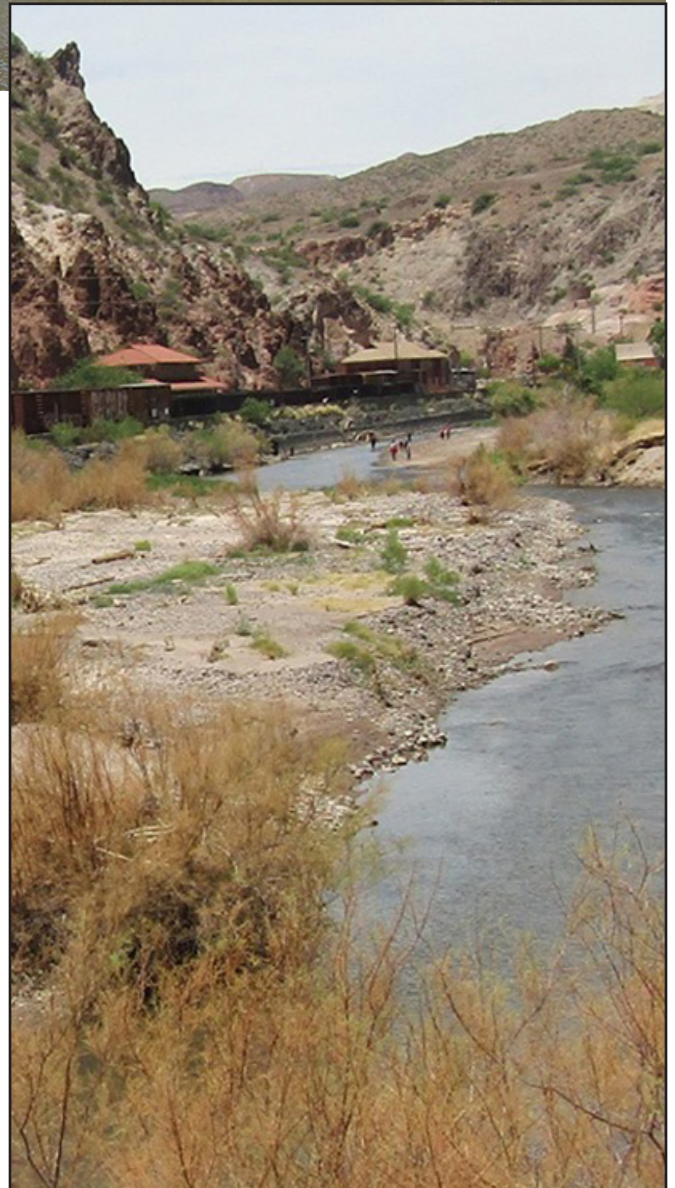
Ranking by State		
27	North Dakota	59.4%
28	New Hampshire	59.2%
29	Delaware	58.7%
30	Rhode Island	58.5%
30	Alabama	58.5%
32	Florida	57.9%
33	Arizona	56.8%
34	North Carolina	56.7%
35	Georgia	56.5%
35	District of Columbia	56.5%

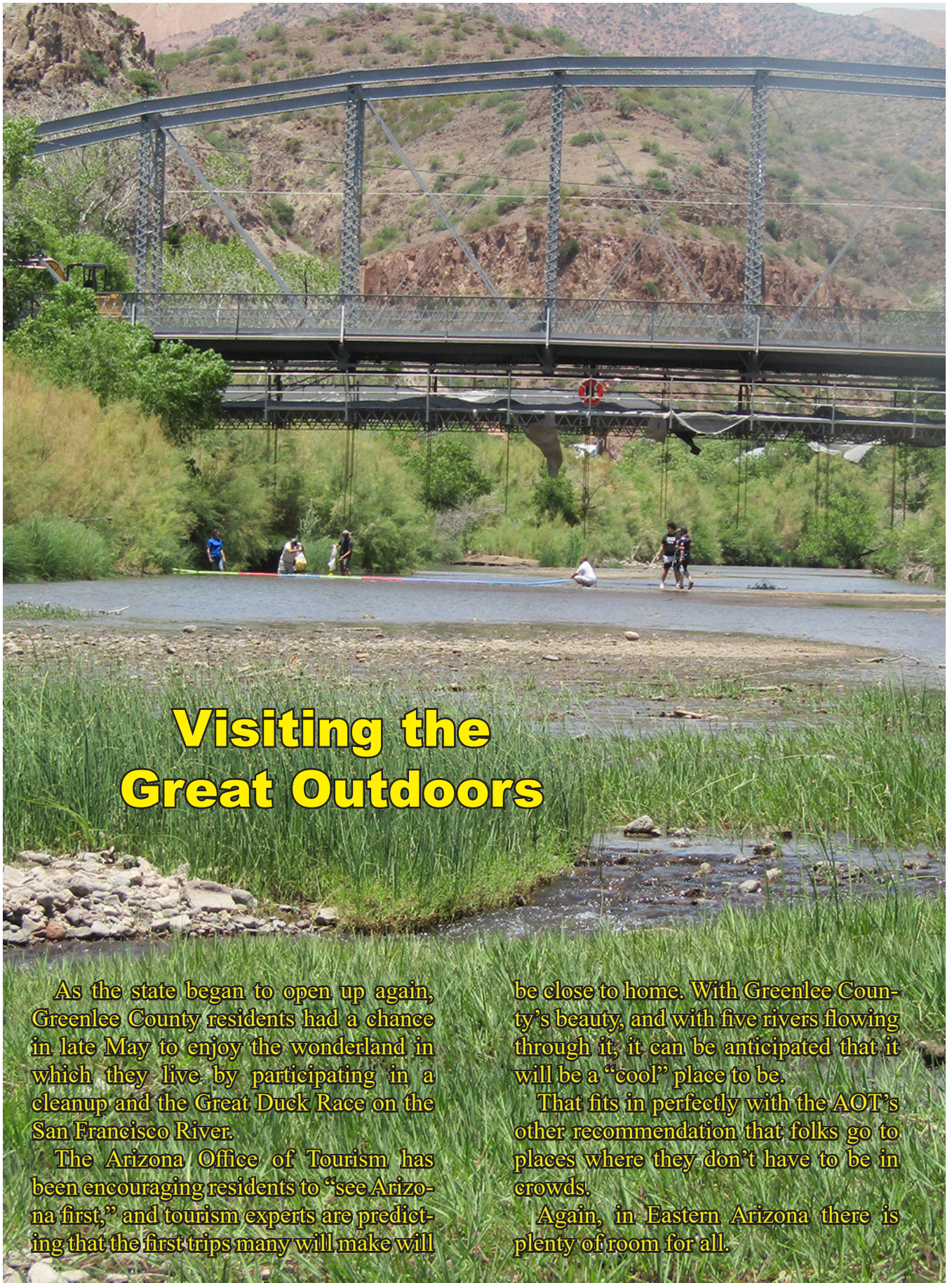
Household Responses by State	
Alabama	1,500,000
Alaska	130,000
Arizona	1,800,000
Arkansas	850,000
California	9,300,000
Colorado	1,600,000
Connecticut	1,000,000
Delaware	270,000
District of Columbia	210,000
Florida	5,900,000



Duck race, cleanup

The Great Duck Race, an event to benefit the use of Greenlee County's rivers, was held the last weekend in May, and as can be seen above, quite a few ducks floated down the San Francisco River near Clifton. You can see videos covering the start and finish at the Facebook pages for the [Frisco Float and Trail](#) and the [Gila Watershed Partnership](#).





Visiting the Great Outdoors

As the state began to open up again, Greenlee County residents had a chance in late May to enjoy the wonderland in which they live by participating in a cleanup and the Great Duck Race on the San Francisco River.

The Arizona Office of Tourism has been encouraging residents to “see Arizona first,” and tourism experts are predicting that the first trips many will make will

be close to home. With Greenlee County’s beauty, and with five rivers flowing through it, it can be anticipated that it will be a “cool” place to be.

That fits in perfectly with the AOT’s other recommendation that folks go to places where they don’t have to be in crowds.

Again, in Eastern Arizona there is plenty of room for all.



On May 25, Memorial Day, FMI's Industrial Railroad dedicated the Morenci 9 Locomotive in honor of our nation's military and veterans. The dedica-

tion was held at the Clifton rail yard by the old depot.

Mexican wolf update

The end of year census for the Mexican wolf for 2019 was a minimum of 163 Mexican wolves in the wild (76 in AZ and 87 in NM), according to Arizona Game & Fish.

This was a 24% increase in the population from a minimum of 131 wolves counted at the end of 2018.

Counting the population at the end of each year allows for comparable year-to-year trends at a time of year when the Mexican wolf population is most stable.

At the end of April, there were 36 named wolf packs (17 in AZ and 19 in NM) and 9 single collared wolves. There were 97 wolves with functioning radio collars that the IFT (Interagency Field Team) was actively monitoring. Not all of the wolves in the population are collared.

From January 1, 2020 to April 30, 2020, there have been a total of 56 depredation incidents in New Mexico and a total of 10 depredation incidents in Arizona.

More information on the wolf is available at azgfd.gov/wolf.

BRINGING YOUR BRAND TO LIFE

360° BRAND:
FROM
Greeting
TO
Goodbye

PRESENTED BY
Jeffri-Lynn Campbell
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blaze
EXPERTS
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RETURN STRONGER

This is a frame grab from one of the ACA's workshops of restarting your business.

Business workshops are online

The Arizona Commerce Authority has been holding workshops about conducting business after Arizona reopens after COVID-19. If you missed these sessions, they are still [available online](#).

(Scroll to the bottom of the page for links to earlier workshops.)

Sessions being held this week include worker safety, virtual sales training and marketing.

The ACA also has published [guidelines for various types of businesses](#) to help them stay safe during Gov. Doug Ducey's gradual step-by-step plan for reopening.

The site also links to [additional statewide resources](#) for businesses, including Local First Arizona, the SBDC, the UofA, ASU and many, many others.

For individuals looking for employment, this site also links to Arizona@Work.

To create these sessions, the Arizona Commerce Authority and Local First Arizona were supported by a dynamic group of community partners, includ-

ing Arizona-based experts. The June 1 session, for example, on implementing safe measures for retailers to reopen, is presented by Target's Director of Government Affairs, Kent Wilson.

SBDC online programs

The Eastern Arizona College Small Business Development Center is launching two interactive, live, online programs for business owners in Graham and Greenlee Counties.

Rebuild, a CO.STARTERS program, starts on June 24 from 8:30 – 11 am and will continue every Wednesday at the same time through August 26.

This live-facilitated, 10-session (2.5 hours each) program will help business owners refocus, stabilize, and build their business toward long-term recovery.

The course is valued at \$550/participant. But thanks to grants from the USDA, Freeport-McMorrán, and The United Way of Graham and Greenlee

continued on page 9

SBDC program . . .

continued from page 8

Counties, the EAC SBDC will have full scholarships for all qualified applicants so local for-profit business owners can attend for free.

Contact the EAC Small Business Development Center at 928 428-8276 or email Charmaine Chidester at charmaine.chidester@eac.edu for more information or to register. The application deadline is June 10 and places are limited.



Charmaine Chidester, Business Counselor at the Eastern Arizona College Small Business Development Center (EAC SBDC) provided this Facebook Live update for your small business. [Click here](#) to watch.

DreamBuilder classes going virtual this year

The EAC SBDC will also be launching its first-ever completely virtual DreamBuilder Program for women looking to start a business.

DreamBuilder, created and funded by Free-Port-McMoRan, combines online courses with nine workshops which will be hosted virtually by EAC Business Analyst, Charmaine Chidester.

This program has been held in-person for four years in either Graham or Greenlee County and has over 60 graduates already.

Thanks to a grant from the United Way of Graham and Greenlee County, this online version of DreamBuilder will be free to all participants. Classes will be held virtually every Monday and Thursday from 1:30 – 3 pm starting June 22 and ending July 20.

Contact Charmaine for more information or to register, 928 428-8276 or charmaine.chidester@eac.edu.

Mental health support

If you're feeling anxious or depressed during these stressful and uncertain times, make sure you call your doctor or a healthcare professional. Medicare covers a number of services to support you, including outpatient mental health services like a depression screening, individual and group psychotherapy, and family counseling.

Counseling services via telehealth may be available to you. Be sure to check, as some healthcare providers and plans are reducing or waiving the amount you pay for telehealth visits during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Always take care of your mental health, and call your healthcare provider if stress gets in the way of your daily activities for several days in a row.

Visit [Medicare.gov](https://www.Medicare.gov) or [CDC.gov](https://www.CDC.gov) for more information.

Job training grants

In response to the unemployment impact of COVID-19, Arizona has established a financial program to support employers and continue reenergizing Arizona's economy.

The Rapid Employment Job Training Grant provides support by reimbursing costs associated with training substantial numbers of new employees quickly.

Public or private organizations, entities or sole proprietorships who have hired new employees and provided online or in-person training may qualify.

Churches, schools and public services corporations do not qualify.

The grant covers new employees hired from March 1, 2020 to September 1, 2020.

Applying for the Rapid Employment Job Training Grant is a simple process. The application will require a brief explanation of the company's training to be provided, identification of a training provider, if applicable, and the calculation of a training budget.

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis until September 1, 2020. Applicants will be notified by email if they are awarded a grant.

Visit [this site](#) to complete the grant application.

The site also lists uncovered costs, such as fringe benefits, food and beverages, recruitment and signing bonuses for trainees and trainers, and others.



#ArtsforArizona has launched

This message came to us from Arizona Citizens for the Arts.

In most years, the Arizona Governor, Arizona House, and Arizona Senate work together to decide the budget, which has included \$2 million for the arts that is invested across the state.

This year the government is expecting a 10%-20% contraction in the budget due to the COVID-19 worldwide pandemic; however the Arts are expected to take a 100% cut and receive zero dollars from the budget.

Now that the legislature has adjourned, the only remaining possibility for support is directly from the Governor's Office.

We need your help to get that \$2 million that the arts community in the entire state of Arizona de-

pends on.

There are more than 250 arts organizations across the state of Arizona.

In addition to generating over \$9.3 billion to the state's economy in 2019, Arizona arts also collectively employ more than 90,000 Arizonans.

According to 79% of Arizonans, the "arts have a social impact improving the quality and livability of my community."

Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic has placed the future of Arizona's arts community in jeopardy.

Restoring state funding for the Arizona Commission for the Arts is an essential first step to help.

Thank you in advance for your help... together we can ensure the arts continue to thrive in Arizona for years to come!

COVID-19 Testing Available

Gila Health Resources is providing COVID-19 tests at the Morenci Clinic, and the good news- you never have to leave your vehicle!

Simply call the Family Medicine clinic at 928-865-7500 to request a Telehealth visit. A provider will order the test, then when you arrive at the clinic, park in the designated space and a health professional will come to you.

You also may walk into the 24-hour Urgent Care to be tested.

Currently, most test results are received within 2-5 days.

Local food getting more interest

Local food was the topic of a session held April 30 for Greenlee County participants. It was a presentation made by Kate Radosevic at the third meeting of Gila Valley Food System Coalition.

She is farm and foods initiative manager at the Local First Arizona Foundation.

Contact her at kate@localfirst.com.

The following information is taken from her presentation slides:

Arizona agriculture is a \$23.3 billion business. Its fastest-growing segments are nuts and wine. The state has the largest pecan grove in the country and the largest date plantation in the world.

Arizona's agricultural exports are valued at \$4.2 billion a year.

Yet in turn, the state imports its food.

Advantages to local foods include freshness, knowing where the food comes from, keeping dollars local by supporting local farmers, which amounts to economic development.

As the state emerges from the issues caused by Covid-19, there are changes in the marketplace.



Customers want to buy local, leaning on people that are known to them. People are cooking more, as well.

During the shutdown, many farmers markets stayed open as “essential services.” It is more and more possible to shop for local foods from home.

Food banks are buying from local farms and farmstands are selling out of food in hours. “Produce box” participation has increased as much as 300 percent in some areas.

There also is more involvement of kids in local food. Many schools are putting in gardens as educational projects and more schools are sourcing food from local growers.

What next?

For people who are interested in become a part of local food growing, the next steps include learning about local supply chains and about needed infrastructure development.

Growers need to enlist support of existing businesses as well, discovering who their potential partners can be.

In Greenlee County there already are two farmers markets, one in Clifton and one in Duncan.

To learn more, visit the website at GoodFoodFinderAZ.com.



Boling new school super for Greenlee

Bryan Boling, who has been principal at Morenci High School, is succeeding Tom Powers as Greenlee County school superintendent. We asked him to write a few words about the challenge.

By Bryan Boling

I recognize that I have big shoes to fill because Tom Powers is a great man. He has been an educator for many decades and has touched the lives of many young people in a way that inspired and motivated them to do something positive with their lives.

I am honored and challenged to be his successor. I believe that the office of Greenlee County School Superintendent has been run well with the interest of students as the priority.

I do not plan to change that philosophy. I will pledge to do anything I can to help schools, teachers, students or families that present a need or want.

I will continue to ensure that the schools within the county are in compliance with state regulations in the areas that my office is responsible for.

I will be flexible and open to ideas presented by the people of this county in reference to the education of our students.



Bryan Boling

Medicare and COVID-19

To help you get the health care you need, while reducing your risk of exposure, Medicare has further temporarily expanded its coverage of telehealth services — allowing doctors and clinicians to perform dozens more additional services via telehealth.

As always, contact your provider first to see if your appointment can be conducted over the phone. If you develop emergency warning signs for COVID-19, get medical attention immediately.

Here are additional key services Medicare has expanded due to the COVID-19 emergency:

Lab tests for COVID-19. You pay no out-of-pocket costs.

All medically necessary hospitalizations. This includes if you're diagnosed with COVID-19 and need to stay in the hospital under quarantine instead of being discharged from the hospital after an inpatient stay.

Learn more about COVID-19 and your Medicare coverage on [Medicare.gov](https://www.medicare.gov).

Small biz and the feds

Small business contractors continue to play an important role in helping federal agencies to respond during the COVID-19 pandemic. Opportunities remain available for small businesses to bid on contracts and contribute to the mission of agencies.

The Arizona office of the SBA is holding a June 3 webinar overview of how to sell your goods and services to the government. Learn about SBA resources and certification programs to help your small business successfully identify and compete for federal contract opportunities.

Our presentation will focus on the Women-Owned Small Business (WOSB) and Economically Disadvantaged Women-Owned Small Business (EDWOSB) certifications and the upcoming changes to those programs.

The June 3 event is a virtual workshop. Log-in information will be provided to registrants upon registration.

[Go here](#) to register and get more information.