Please see below a summary of the latest actions taken by Governor Ducey and the State of Arizona to mitigate the social and economic impact of COVID-19. This information was pulled from a press release issued by the Arizona Governor's Office.

## Governor Ducey Issues Executive Order To Meet Growing Job Demand, Support Employers

Governor Doug Ducey today issued an Executive Order to meet surging job demand and support job creators throughout Arizona as employment opportunities grow and the COVID-19 vaccine is available for anyone who wants it.

Today's Order rescinds a March 2020 Executive Order that waived the requirement that an individual receiving employment benefits must be actively looking for work in order to receive the benefits.

The Arizona Department of Economic Security will begin enforcing the reinstated requirement the week of Sunday, May 23.

Arizonans receiving unemployment benefits may continue to receive benefits, but under reinstated requirements, must show that they are actively looking for work.

Arizona's labor force currently is 100.09 percent compared to pre-pandemic levels, with more people <a href="mailto:employed in Arizona">employed in Arizona</a> than before the pandemic. However, many businesses are struggling to fill positions, especially <a href="mailto:those in the restaurant and hospitality sectors">those in the restaurant and hospitality sectors</a>. The Governor's Executive Order aims to help fill these spots and promote continued job growth.

A February report released by the Arizona Office of Economic Opportunity is projecting strong job growth in the state over the next two years, with the <u>largest gains happening in sectors hit</u> <u>hardest by the pandemic</u>. Arizona is expected to gain more than 325,000 jobs between spring 2020 and the same time next year, a 5.5 percent annualized growth rate.

Additionally, the Arizona Office of Economic Opportunity in March <u>released an employment</u> report showing more than 16,000 jobs had been added back in the state. Also, an April article from AZ Big Media shows <u>Arizona is among the top five most recovered</u> states for unemployment.

To date, Arizona has distributed 5,102,705 vaccinations, with 2,329,956 Arizonans fully vaccinated against the virus. State sites have administered 1,473,916 of those doses to 821,552 individuals, of whom 695,622 have been fully vaccinated.

On March 24, Governor Ducey and the Arizona Department of Health Services <u>expanded</u> <u>vaccination eligibility</u> to all Arizonans 16 and older. Currently, supply is outstripping demand.

More than 67,900 vaccination appointments are available at state-run sites and appointments are no longer required.

View the entire press release **HERE**.

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Best regards,

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