



## Statement

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### **ABOR Issues Letter Responding to AZ Attorney General’s Legal Opinion Regarding Universities’ Response to COVID-19**

Today, Arizona Board of Regents legal counsel submitted a [letter](#) to the Arizona Attorney General, responding to his recent public statements and opinion ([NO. 120-005](#)), “Extent of permissible disclosure by government entities of COVID-19-related information to the public and county and state health officials.”

ABOR Chair Larry Edward Penley shared the following statement:

“Arizona’s public universities have been at the forefront in protecting students, employees and the community during this health crisis. The universities became some of the earliest Arizona organizations to take steps like online instruction that limited social interaction. From the onset, the universities have focused on the safety of the community. The universities’ decisions, public communications and individual notifications have been based on full cooperation with public health officials. They have followed local and federal guidance, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

“Each of Arizona’s public universities has been fully engaged in the effort to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. Those efforts began with migrating classes online. They have continued with hundreds of faculty engaged in COVID-19 research. The University of Arizona Health Sciences faculty manufactured thousands of COVID-19 test kits. Arizona State University has developed robotic testing that can also perform thousands of tests per week. Northern Arizona University’s research on COVID-19 proteins can lead to a 15-minute diagnosis. As Arizona school districts have struggled to fully implement the governor’s call for remote instruction, ASU has made available for free courses and instructional materials for educators.

“As Arizona grapples with this public health crisis, it is incumbent on us all to work together. It has been promising to see all aspects of society – Arizona universities included – pulling together to meet this challenge. It is disappointing that the Arizona Board of Regents must spend precious time during this health crisis correcting the Attorney General’s incorrect assertions that misinform the citizenry of our state about our public universities.”

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