

DR. MATT HEINZSupervisor
District 2**Pima County Board of Supervisors**

To: Julie Castañeda, Clerk of the Board

From: Dr. Matt Heinz, Supervisor, District 2

Date: August 13, 2021

RE: BOS Agenda 08/16/21 – New Resolution Proclaiming an Emergency in Pima County due to COVID-19

Please place the following on the regular agenda for the Board of Supervisors meeting on August 16, 2021, as an attachment to the standing COVID-19 item, #10: **Updates and Action on COVID-19**. Thank you.

Board of Supervisors

New Resolution of the Pima County Board of Supervisors proclaiming the existence of an emergency related to the COVID-19 pandemic in Pima County. (Resolution attached.)

AUG 13 2021 05:01 PM

RESOLUTION NO. 2021 - __

**RESOLUTION OF THE PIMA COUNTY BOARD OF
SUPERVISORS PROCLAIMING THE EXISTENCE OF AN
EMERGENCY RELATED TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

The Board of Supervisors of Pima County, Arizona finds:

1. WHEREAS, A.R.S. § 26-311(A) provides that, whenever the Chair of the Board of Supervisors for the unincorporated portion of a county deems that an emergency exists due to natural or man-made calamity or disaster ... which endangers life or property within the unincorporated areas of the county, the Chair of the Board of Supervisors, if authorized by ordinance or resolution, may by proclamation declare an emergency or a local emergency to exist and thereafter govern by proclamation; and
2. WHEREAS, On March 11, 2020, the Governor of the State of Arizona, Douglas A. Ducey, declared that a State of Emergency exists in Arizona due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which to date has not been rescinded; and
3. WHEREAS, On March 19, 2020, the Board of Supervisors of Pima County, Arizona, determined that an emergency or local emergency existed within unincorporated Pima County due to COVID-19. This emergency declaration was subsequently rescinded on July 6, 2021; and
4. WHEREAS, COVID-19 still presents a substantial and growing risk to public health within and outside the boundaries of Pima County. As of August 13, 2021, in Arizona, 18,435 people have died from COVID-19, with 23 new deaths reported on August 13th alone. Within Pima County, reported deaths numbered 2,468 people as of August 12, 2021, including 18 COVID-related deaths in the county since the beginning of August; and
5. WHEREAS, the Pima County Board of Health, in their Emergency Meeting on August 13, 2021, voted unanimously to support a renewed Emergency Proclamation in Pima County due to COVID-19; and
6. WHEREAS, the number of COVID-19 cases and percentage of positive COVID-19 tests in Pima County have both been steadily rising since the beginning of June, 2021. In early July, the Arizona Department of Health Services and CDC dashboards showed Pima County transitioning from "Moderate Transmission" to "Substantial Transmission" with respect to cases of the virus, and on August 10, 2021, showed the level worsening from

"Substantial Transmission" to "High Transmission" in Pima County. As of August 13, 2021, every county in Arizona except La Paz County had "High Community Transmission" of COVID-19; and

7. WHEREAS, While a significant portion of any population remains unvaccinated against COVID-19, as significant portions of Pima County's, Arizona's, and the United States' populations still remain, the virus will continue to mutate and create new variants, of unknown lethality and transmissibility; and
8. WHEREAS, The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) protects the public health by assuring the safety, effectiveness, and security of human drugs, vaccines and other biological products for human use, and medical devices. On May 10, 2021, the FDA expanded the Emergency Use Authorization for the Pfizer Vaccine for the prevention of COVID-19 to include adolescents 12 through 15 years of age, with 16 and 17 year olds having already been eligible under the original Emergency Use Authorization for adults; and
9. WHEREAS, As of August 13, 2021, children under the age of 12 are not yet eligible to receive any COVID-19 vaccination in the United States; and
10. WHEREAS, Local school districts began classes last month, and no child under the age of 12 is as yet vaccinated. This poses a public health risk for those students and their family members, as well as for teachers and school staff who interact with students regularly. As of 3:00pm on August 13, 2021, there were 519 cases in K-12 school settings in Pima County and 26 different outbreaks leading to classroom closures reported to the Pima County Health Department since July 20, 2021;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,

SECTION 1. The Pima County Board of Supervisors hereby finds, pursuant to A.R.S. § 26-311, that an emergency or local emergency exists in unincorporated Pima County related to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic; and

SECTION 2. The Chair of the Pima County Board of Supervisors is hereby authorized to declare by proclamation that an emergency or local emergency exists, and is empowered to govern by proclamation, as authorized by A.R.S. § 26-311, in consultation with the County Administrator and Chief Medical Officer; and

SECTION 3. The emergency or local emergency shall remain in effect until the Board

of Supervisors, in consultation with the County Administrator and Chief Medical Officer, issues a proclamation determining that an emergency no longer exists.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors, Pima County, Arizona, this ____ day of August, 2021.

Sharon Bronson
Chair, Pima County Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:

Julie Castañeda
Clerk of the Board

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Lesley Lukach
Civil Division, Pima County Attorney's Office