PIMA COUNTY

DISTRICT 2 MEMORANDUM

TO: Julie Castañeda, Clerk of the Board

FROM: Dr. Matt Heinz, Supervisor, District 2

DATE: January 28, 2021

RE: Agenda Item for 2/2/21 – COVID-19 Variants

Please add the following item to the Board of Supervisors agenda for the regular meeting on February 2, 2021:

Information/Discussion/Potential Action regarding the new COVID-19 variants being detected around the world and in the United States. Specifically:

1. Update from Staff re: detection of the "UK Variant," the "South African Variant," the "Brazil Variant" or any other variant of COVID-19 in Pima County. We have the following questions:

    1. How much and how often are we testing for these new variants of COVID-19 in our community?

    2. Utilizing our current detection methods, how soon after a particular variant reaches Pima County will we know it is here, and how well will we be able to trace its spread within the community?

    3. What do we currently know about these variants in terms of how **contagious** they are **and** how **deadly** they are? How do they impact hospitalization rates, morbidity and mortality rates in communities in which they've been detected?

    4. How does rampant spread of the COVID-19 virus impact the ability of the virus to mutate and breed new variants?

    5. Regarding the current public health measures in place, including the Pima County mask mandate and public health advisories, and the various mandates or advisories currently in place through the Governor's executive orders, how well will these measures protect our community from even greater viral spread if and when the new variants arrive in Pima County?

2. Discussion/potential action regarding taking further measures to protect the public health, prevent deaths, and prevent catastrophic impacts on our hospitals, healthcare providers, and the greater community.