



AGENDA MATERIAL

DATE 2/2/21

ITEM NO. RA 5

MEMORANDUM

Date: January 29, 2021

To: The Honorable Chair and Members
Pima County Board of Supervisors

From: C.H. Huckelberry
County Administrator

Re: COVID-19 Pandemic Update for the February 2, 2021 Board of Supervisors Meeting

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Introduction

This report is another in a series of reports to the Board of Supervisors falling under the COVID-19 emergency declaration of the Board. These reports are intended to report the current status of the pandemic and actions being taken by Pima County, our public health agency and partners in combating the spread of COVID-19. This report represents significant milestones in the pandemic that began in February 2020. We are now approximately one year after the pandemic began and have had our 100,000th case of COVID-19 infection within Pima County.

Pima County with our partners, began vaccination programs on December 17, 2020 and today we will have reached another milestone, approximately 40 days later, by administering over 100,000 inoculations.

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Present State of COVID-19 Infections and Medical System Capacity

As of January 29, 2021, the State reported 831 additional cases in Pima County. This brings the monthly total cases reported to date to approximately 30,457 compared to 29,663 in December 2020. A grand total of 100,272 cases since the onset of the pandemic in March 2020.

In addition, the number of deaths reported from January 1, 2021 to January 29, 2021 totals 672 compared to 373 deaths in December 2020, bringing our County total deaths due to COVID-19 to 1,736.

Regarding hospital capacity, the latest report indicates bed availability remains critical. The following statistics are relevant to this issue:

- ICU bed availability: 5 percent with 19 beds available
 - ICU bed availability has remained < 10 percent for 80 days
- Med/surg bed availability: 8 percent with 121 beds available
 - Med/surg bed availability has remained < 10 percent for 87 days
- There are 507 COVID-19 positive inpatients
- 159 COVID patients are in an ICU bed, accounting for 45 percent usage of ICU beds
- 116 COVID patients are on ventilators, accounting for 55 percent usage of ventilators
- 9 COVID-19 mortalities were reported in the past 24 hours

Vaccination Processes

We continue to add vaccination capacity to our system on a routine basis. Some of the additions come from the County and its partners, others from the State. For those additions completed by the State, the County has little control over or receives little information regarding the vaccines distributed to those locations.

Vaccination centers are broadly classified as:

1) Regional Vaccination Centers

Tucson Medical Center (TMC) has been a vaccination center since the medical group 1A started vaccinating. It has now transitioned to the 1B.1 a, b and c and operated as both a drive-thru and walk in vaccination center with emphasis on those 75 years of age and older. In total, TMC has delivered 39,868 doses. The Marshall Auditorium walk in component will be closed shortly with the drive-thru facility being expanded from two lanes to three lanes. This vaccination center has consistently vaccinated over 1,000 people per operating day on average. This facility's drive-thru service operates between the hours of 8:00 am and 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday and Saturdays 8:00 am to 2:00 pm.

Banner North is a site that also operated when the 1A group was eligible and continues today with the same 1B.1 a, b and c group with emphasis on those 75 years of age and older. Banner North has delivered 20,575 doses to date. This facility operates between the hours of 9:00 am to 5:00 pm Monday through Friday, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm Saturdays and Sundays between 9:00 am and 1:00 pm. Banner North consistently vaccinates approximately 800 individuals per day and will increase to approximately 1,500 per day. This site is a drive thru facility.

Kino Sports Complex operated by Banner using resources of the Banner South Hospital has the capacity to vaccinate at least 1,000 persons each day. This site places an emphasis on individuals 75 years of age and older, the protective service class employees and can accommodate teachers. The Kino/Banner site has delivered 7,514 doses to date. This drive thru facility operates between the hours of 9:00 am to 5:00 pm Monday through Friday, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm Saturdays and 9:00 to 1:00 pm on Sundays. It has the capacity to increase to 1,500 vaccinations per day.

Tucson Convention Center operates between the hours of 8:00 am to 5:00 pm Monday through Friday. This site is largely staffed with City of Tucson Fire and other City employees; it has delivered 6,976 doses to date. This site has the capacity to consistently vaccinate 1,500 individuals per day. In addition, adding weekend capacity will increase throughput to over 2,500 per day.

University of Arizona – While the University of Arizona (UA) has established a vaccination center on the UA Mall, it is both a walk-in as well as a drive thru facility. This vaccination capacity is focused on educators and childcare workers. This site operates between the hours of 10:00 am to 4:00 pm Monday through Saturday. UA has delivered 3,369 doses to date They have been increasing vaccinations with 42 walk in and 108 drive thru vaccinations on January 20th to 213 walk in and 603 drive thru vaccinations on January 27.

This site, when fully operational should be able to accommodate up to 2,000 vaccinations per day with a combination between walk in and drive thru patients.

Rillito Park is a facility that we have requested State assistance to set up as a State-sponsored drive-thru vaccination center, consistent with the two facilities that have been set up in Maricopa County as a 24 hour/7-day operation. The parking configuration and long entrance and exit driveways have the capability of operating six lanes; therefore, daily capacity could be as much as 5,000 vaccinations per day but more than likely consistently produce 3,000 vaccinations each day.

Five of these sites have been operating since January 19 or 20. Each site is increasing daily vaccination capacity and has already reached a daily delivery of over 7,000 per day. On Thursday of this week, it has increased to 8,000 vaccinations per day.

2) **Distributed Centers, mostly Operated by Community Health Organizations and/or Clinics**

Distributed centers consist of vaccination centers smaller in scale than the regional centers but capable of producing as many as several hundred vaccinations per day. The vaccinations are administered primarily at community health centers operated at a number of facilities by community health providers having more than one clinic geographically. These include Marana Health Clinics, United Community Healthcare Centers (UCHC) and Desert-Senita, and they have delivered 1,520, 794, and 331 vaccines. These federally qualified community health centers serve large geographic swaths of Pima County and are particularly well positioned to serve low-income and rural/semi-rural communities through their networks of more than 20 satellite clinic sites and with a multiplicity of partners including school districts, fire departments and other community partners. They are positioned to serve their communities (inclusive of both registered and non-registered patients) with unique and flexible approaches including pop-up vaccination events, walk-in and drive through vaccine clinics. In the last week for example, Marana Health Clinics has operated a drive-through clinic at their main location, by contrast UCHC has taken a mobile approach bringing vaccination to the communities of Vail, Sahuarita, Amado, Three-points, while Desert-Senita has offered in clinic vaccination as it prepares to roll-out a mobile event in collaboration with the local school district.

This week El Rio, which has already vaccinated 1,509 health care workers, will receive an allocation of 2,000 doses to serve plus-75 individuals in our communities. In fact, all our community health center partners have been asked to focus on the 75+ most vulnerable populations, but they stand ready to be activated to serve broader segment once vaccine is made available from the State. It is these locations that can take substantially more vaccine as it becomes available and better vaccinate our designated target population.

3) **Retail Pharmacies Selected by the State**

There were six retail pharmacies selected in Pima County by the State as vaccination locations. The State selected 60 pharmacies statewide to be resourced directly from the total vaccine allocation. As I have indicated previously, we have little information regarding the number of vaccines sent to each of these pharmacy locations and had no input in terms of their location. Fortunately, they are broadly distributed in the periphery of the urban core and are well positioned to serve Sahuarita, Green Valley, Marana, Oro Valley, Vail and northwest Tucson. The registration process is handled by those pharmacies online and we have requested that they limit their services to 75+ individuals. They are however under no obligation to do so, since they are contractors of the state and the federal government.

4) **Long-term Care and Assisted Living Facilities Administered by the State**

The State developed a registration process for long-term care and assisted living facilities. All of the long-term care facilities registered and have received their first immunization through the federal contract with CVS and Walgreens; long term care facilities will receive an additional two visits to ensure that residents and staff all receive the COVID -19 vaccine. Although the County has had no role in the selection or scheduling of these facilities we are aware that CVS and Walgreens both are scheduled to serve to conduct these on-site vaccination events until April. At this time, we estimate that more than 5,700 vaccines have been administered to residents and staff of these facilities. However, a substantial number of the assisted living facilities did not enroll. The County is developing a strategy (outlined below) to identify these facilities and vaccinate those residents.

The Pima County Health Department (PCHD), in partnership with the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) and their funded Pima County Arizona Long Term Care System (ALTCS) plans has, with our coordination, developed a mobile outreach pilot plan to vaccinate elderly and people with disability ALTCS clients living in assisted living facilities. The pilot will target those assisted living facilities not covered by the CVS/Walgreens partnership to ensure these high-risk residents and staff receive vaccinations as part of priority Group 1A1C. The County is developing additional plans to ensure vaccination at these non-federally enrolled assisted living facilities as these facilities are often overlooked by State and federal authorities.

5) **Mobile Vaccination and Registration Teams for Homebound, Low Income Senior Housing Residents and Disadvantaged Populations**

The County Health Department, working with TMC and our vaccination contractor, Premier Medical Group, as well as the volunteer community, is in the process of establishing a number of mobile vaccination teams that will provide vaccination for homebound individuals, those in low income senior housing and disadvantaged populations.

We expect that people 75 years and older receiving services through ALTCS and not living in a skilled nursing facility or assisted living center will be contacted by their assigned ALTCS case manager to arrange for their vaccination. For those able to get to our normal points of dispensing, the case manager will provide information and support on how to register, as well as any assistance required to get to the appointment.

Many older adults 75+ who are not currently ALTCS members, but who are homebound, will need targeted outreach and assistance to ensure they have equitable access to vaccinations. The Health Department in partnership with TMC, Premier

Medical Group and other stakeholders, has developed a plan to stand up mobile vaccination clinics, via closed points of distribution, for people 75+ who are members of these vulnerable communities.

In addition, these systems for vaccinations will be used for vulnerable or marginalized populations and disadvantaged communities. Priority mobile vaccination services will be given to communities with the lowest vaccination rates, highest rates of COVID-19 cases per 100,000 and also having the highest rates of COVID-19 mortality, and the greatest social vulnerability. Much of this data can be accessed through our existing databases regarding COVID-19 infection and death rates as well as socio-economic and other information available from the Census for census tracts in Pima County.

We anticipate beginning this mobile clinic pilot on February 6 with a pilot site staffed by Health Department, volunteers and TMC. We anticipate that we will continue to provide vaccine through this mobile clinic. We anticipate that each site will be able to provide vaccinations to 400 people per clinic.

Vaccination Center Assistance by the State

The State of Arizona has set up two 24/7 regional vaccination centers in the metropolitan area of Phoenix in Maricopa County. These are located at the State Farm Stadium in Glendale and Phoenix Municipal Stadium. They have the ability to provide high capacity vaccination services 24 hours per day, 7 days per week.

For some unknown reason, a recent newspaper article indicated that the same was offered to Pima County and we declined – that is incorrect. We were never asked to set up a regional vaccination center supported by the State with 24/7 vaccination capacity. We have communicated with the State in a letter to Arizona Department of Health Services Director Dr. Cara Christ that Pima County would request the State set up such a center at our Rillito Park. (Attachment 1). This site has a substantial paved parking lot with lighting that can accommodate high-volume throughput, including at least six vaccination lanes. With the size of the parking lot and length of the approach and departure driveways this site has the capacity to provide 5,000 or more vaccinations per day. I will advise the Board as to any progress or assistance that we receive from the State in setting up this regional vaccination center, similar to the services they provided to the two sites in Maricopa County and Phoenix metropolitan area.

Pima County's Vaccination Report

Attachment 2 is the latest vaccination report prepared by Pima County. As of January 28, a total of 95,672 residents have received the COVID-19 vaccine. Most of these were provided by a local provider, including our vaccination centers.

The report shows the number of vaccinations each day since inception, the gender of those vaccinated, age group distribution, the type of vaccine administered and the number of 1st and 2nd doses. This vaccination report will be provided weekly. Most importantly, as of yesterday 23,641 vaccines have been administered to individuals 75 years of age and older. The type of vaccine, either Pfizer (47%) or Moderna (53%), was distributed almost equally.

Vaccination of 1B Target Population

As the Board recalls, in our Accelerated Vaccination Plan, we indicated the 1B population would be divided into four subsets with the highest priority given to the plus-75 age group, followed by protective service employees, teachers and childcare providers. We have made significant progress in vaccinating this population. Recent data from our vaccination statistics indicates that we have vaccinated approximately 24,000 individuals 75 years of age or older. This is significant penetration into this demographic age group given difficulties associated with both transportation and registration.

In addition, it is likely we will have progressed through the protective services class of employees by early next week. Teachers and childcare workers are also being vaccinated not only at the University of Arizona site but all other sites. Our data indicates that for the first full days of vaccination operation at our regional vaccination sites, which were only fully operational on January 20, 2021 even though many sites were opened and vaccinating individuals on January 15, is that a significant population on 1B a, b and c individuals have been or are now scheduled for vaccination. We are now planning for moving into what we classify as the 1B.1d classification for those individuals over 65 years of age. We anticipate this transition will occur in early February and will cause an additional surge on registration capacity of which now are better prepared to handle given the analysis of this capacity surge that occurred during the registration phase of 1B a, b and c individuals.

Registration Issues and Resolution

We have experienced significant registration challenges during this implementation. First, it is of consensus that the State system did not serve Pima County well. In reviewing other counties' experiences throughout Arizona, I believe this is a consensus. For this reason, we developed at least two registration systems. One through Banner Medical System which allowed registration in a controlled process, meaning the system did not get overwhelmed by applications. The Banner system has been able to throttle demand to a relatively constant number of vaccinations at approximately 750 per day at Banner North and has done similarly at the Banner South/Kino Sports Complex. The Kino Sports Complex should easily increase to 1,500 per day in the near future.

The Tucson Medical Center registration process into the Electronic Health Record (EHR) system known as Epic, with the County REDcap interface has experienced a few problems, including the client registration at the Tucson Convention Center (TCC). These issues were

not necessarily caused by information technology systems but more likely caused by human input of information into the various portals that were not accepted and caused significant complications in registration. For example, some individuals did not provide their legal gender, which caused the application to be incomplete. Other individuals filled out wrong information in the wrong portal boxes. For example, inserting their telephone number in the email address box.

A significant portion of these obstacles have been overcome. In particular, our Information Technology Director reports that the manual process of collecting and transmitting data in spreadsheets touched by human hands multiple times has largely been automated. Error checking and data cleansing routines have been put in place. The result is for the period of 1/25/2021 through 1/27/2021, clean data files have been received by TMC in order to register 22,907 Educators and Child Care Providers, 1,175 Protective Services employees and 18,831 individuals 75 years of age or over. This means the registration reservation for vaccine inoculations at both TCC as well as the University of Arizona should be populated for at least one week in advance. Previously, these "glitches in the system" caused a number of reservations to be unfilled; hence, the need to mobilize any of those individuals in the class of individuals eligible of inoculation to report to the TCC. These issues have been reported in the media. The bad news is that they occurred, the good news is that despite these problems occurring, we have inoculated a record number of individuals; inoculating 6,905 Wednesday January 27 and over 7,000 on Thursday January 28.

We believe, "every inoculation is a good inoculation," regardless of whether it was scheduled or not. And in almost every case the individuals vaccinated were members of the 1A or 1B a, b, or c priority groups.

The Case for Increased Allocation of Vaccine to Pima County

On the State's webpage for information entitled COVID-19 Vaccine Prioritization Phase by Arizona County, the Pima County vaccination rate is 8,278 per 100,000 people compared to the Maricopa County vaccination rate of 5,536 per 100,000 persons. In the section of the webpage entitled Ordered and Administered by Arizona County, the webpage indicates that the vaccines ordered are 413,875 for Maricopa County and 140,425 for Pima County.

However, there is also a line item for State PODS, which I believe reflects the two State PODS opened in Maricopa County for a vaccination ordered amount of 140,400. If the Maricopa allocation and the State POD allocation were combined, 554,275 vaccines have been ordered or provided for Maricopa County versus 140,425 for Pima County.

While population is one measure, another measure would be the percent of the population that is more vulnerable to COVID-19 than other population components within the County. Next is a table that indicates a comparison between Pima and Maricopa Counties regarding population, race and by age.

Arizona Counties Race, Ethnicity & Age
 US Census Quick Facts, July 1, 2019 for Race and Ethnicity

County	Total Population	% Hispanic	% Black Alone	% Native American Alone	% Asian/Pacific Islander Alone	% Age 75+	% Age 65-74	%Below Fed Poverty Level	%AHCCCS Population Jan-21
Pima	1,047,279	38%	4%	4%	4%	9%	11%	14%	31%
Maricopa	4,485,414	31%	6%	3%	5%	7%	9%	12%	28%

In the analysis, Pima County's Hispanic and American Indian population is 7 and 1 percent, respectively more than Maricopa and our percent of those age 75 and over is greater than Maricopa as well as for those between 65 and 74. Likewise, the 14 percent of Pima County residents live below the Federal Poverty Level and 31 percent are served by the state Medicaid Program, both of which are significantly greater than Maricopa County. These factors alone would seem to indicate a vaccine distribution greater than percent of population should occur.

Strange Interpretation from the State Regarding our Eligibility for COVID-19 Vaccination Cost Recovery

As I have advised the Board in a January 25, 2021 memorandum, we have received a confusing response from the State through the Executive Director of the County Supervisors Association, Craig Sullivan, to our request to provide documentation that would indicate the County was ineligible to receive reimbursement for setting up, establishing and operating vaccination centers before State approval. This documentation was provided at 6:30 pm on Monday, January 25, 2020. Their response simply indicated that funding is for added capacity, as quoted below:

- "Fund local health departments to **expand** their **operations** (e.g., providing vaccinations during evenings, overnight, and on weekends) and to **increase** their **throughput**."

As far as I am concerned this statement provides little guidance regarding reimbursement eligibility and is entirely inappropriate during a public health emergency.

I continue to firmly believe that the County should be eligible for reimbursement of all costs despite this sketchy guidance. It would seem any interpretation that would fall in line with that of the State would penalize Pima County for being proactive in setting up vaccination sites and providing vaccines before the date the Vaccination Plan is approved by the State.

In addition, this language would prohibit us from reimbursing both TMC and Banner for their efforts to vaccinate the 1B population. I firmly believe this is contrary to the funding provided by Congress and will continue to pursue our full reimbursement of these costs regardless of the lack of documentation from the State regarding policy, rule, procedure or regulation that would prohibit our reimbursement.

Additional Federal Funding for Testing and Vaccination Provided by the 2021 Consolidated Appropriations Act

There is very little additional information to report other than the State has been awarded \$416 million to provide COVID-19 testing and \$66 million for vaccination. We have heard nothing regarding the distribution of testing funds to public health agencies, including counties who bear much of the responsibility for testing. In a January 25, 2021 memorandum to the Board I indicated Pima County was solely responsible for over 65 percent of the over 500,000 tests for COVID-19 conducted within Pima, all at our expense. These were largely reimbursed from the original CARES Act fund; however, expenditures after January 1, 2021, continue to accumulate and are unfunded by any distribution of federal funds for this purpose by the State. It should be noted that in January alone, the County's expenditure for COVID-19 testing will be nearly \$6 million.

Regarding the \$66 million for vaccinations, the Arizona Department of Health Services has informed us that our "appropriate share" of the \$66 million would be \$7.1 million. We have submitted two vaccination plans to the State, one costing \$14 million and the other \$ 21 million, both of these significantly exceed the State's cost allocation.

Board Chair Bronson along with our region's Mayors recently corresponded with the Governor regarding distribution of the 2021 Consolidated Appropriation Act funding for vaccines and COVID-19 testing in Pima County. (Attachment 3)

Intergovernmental Agreements (IGAs) with Fire Districts to Provide Vaccinators and Support Staff

Our Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security has been working with area fire districts to develop an intergovernmental agreement where the County can call on fire district personnel, provided they have sufficient manpower and resources to assist in vaccination and testing services for all appropriate agencies while the Emergency Declaration remains in place for Pima County. The primary and most important staff are paramedics, emergency medical technicians and other direct support staff to perform vaccinations. In addition, it may be necessary to transport supplies, assist in the setup of clinics, completion of immunization forms, records and applications.

The purpose of these IGAs is to provide the County with a larger reserve of medically qualified individuals to provide vaccination services in the event the vaccination supply becomes widely available and exceeds our current vaccination capacity. Also, the medical personnel manning our existing vaccination center may need occasional relief and these agreements with fire districts will accomplish that goal as well.

Use of Medical and Non-Medical Volunteers as well as City and County Staff

All regional vaccination sites make use of volunteers in operating certain components of their activities. These volunteers are divided into two groups, medical and non-medical. The total number of volunteer days provided as of January 27 is 559 for medical for 802 for non-medical. From December 17 and as of January 27, volunteers filled 559 medical positions and 802 non-medical positions.

Volunteer registration also continues to climb through both the Health Department's registration portal as well as State or defined as the Arizona Emergency System for Advance Registration of Volunteer Health Professionals or AZ-ESAR-VHP portals for medical professional volunteers. The number of volunteers registering in these areas have increased substantially from 250 to 564 since December and non-medical volunteers increased from an estimated 600 to 1,873.

As of yesterday, in addition to 1,928 other/non-medical volunteers, there are 422 medical professionals in the following categories:

- 209 Registered Nurses
- 87 Physicians
- 48 Pharmacists
- 33 Emergency Medical Technicians/Paramedics
- 24 Nurse Practitioners
- 8 Respiratory Therapists
- 8 Physician Assistants
- 5 Epidemiologists

Call Center Establishment

To answer the public's questions regarding vaccination and the registration process, Pima County has set up a call center at the Recorder's Voter Registration Office at 6550 S. Country Club Road. This is the same location and call center that was used during the most recent Presidential Election. The call center became fully operational on Tuesday, January 26, 2021 and will continue with hours seven days each week from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm. These hours will be appropriately adjusted based on call volumes and demands.

The center has space for 47 socially-distanced work stations. We initially set up a call center to be handled remotely with Library employees and a few Health Department employees, but given the dual roles these employees played performing their regular jobs in addition to telephone calls, we then transitioned into a standalone call center staffed by a few subject matter experts from the Health Department, intermittent employees and volunteers. The primary purpose of the call center is to provide information to callers about registration and answer a number of questions related to COVID-19 and the vaccination process.

The Honorable Chair and Members, Pima County Board of Supervisors
Re: **COVID-19 Pandemic Update for the February 2, 2021 Board of Supervisors Meeting**
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Attached is the current summary of frequently asked questions and answers. (Attachment 4)
Once this call center is in a stable, functioning environment, we will begin to add the possibility of providing registration and appointments through the call center for those who do not have access to a computer or internet.

On January 27, 2021, the call center handled 1,594 calls with 240 of those calls after 4:30 pm. The average time before a call was answered was 6 minutes and the average time on a call was 6 minutes and 20 seconds.

CHH/anc

Attachments

c: Jan Leshar, Chief Deputy County Administrator
Carmine DeBonis, Jr., Deputy County Administrator for Public Works
Francisco García, MD, MPH, Deputy County Administrator & Chief Medical Officer,
Health and Community Services
Terry Cullen, MD, MS, Public Health Director, Pima County Health Department

ATTACHMENT 1



COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE

PIMA COUNTY GOVERNMENTAL CENTER
130 W. CONGRESS, FLOOR 10, TUCSON, AZ 85701-1317
(520) 724-8661 FAX (520) 724-8171

C.H. HUCKELBERRY
County Administrator

January 26, 2021

Dr. Cara Christ, M.D., M.S.
Arizona Department of Health Services
150 N. 18th Avenue
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Re: **State Assistance in Setting up a 24/7 Point of Dispensing at the Rillito Park**

Dear Dr. Christ:

It was recently reported in the *Arizona Daily Star* that Pima County declined State assistance in setting up another Point of Dispensing (POD). I checked with both Deputy County Administrator and Chief Medical Officer Dr. Francisco Garcia and Health Department Director Dr. Theresa Cullen on this matter. They, as well as I, do not recall any conversation with a State official declining assistance in setting up a future state operated POD. I apologize if we somehow left you with that impression.

As you know, we have already stood up five regional centers, including three within the last 15 days. We would appreciate assistance in setting up a sixth center at Rillito Park at the current time. This location is ideally suited for a six-lane, drive-thru vaccination facility with ample parking and long approach and departure driveways. We estimate this site could provide as many as 5,000 vaccinations per day if operated 24/7.

As we work through the priority 1.B classification, those 75 years of age and older, teachers, childcare workers as well as protective service workers, we will need additional vaccination capacity to quickly accommodate those 65 years of age and older as well as those remaining qualified persons.

Please let us know what type of assistance the State will offer in setting up our Rillito Park site.

^{day}
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C.H. Huckelberry", is written over a horizontal line.

C.H. Huckelberry
County Administrator

c: Major General Michael McGuire, Director, Arizona Department of Emergency and
Military Affairs
Jan Leshner, Chief Deputy County Administrator
Francisco García, MD, MPH, Deputy County Administrator & Chief Medical Officer,
Health and Community Services
^{day} Terry Cullen, MD, MS, Public Health Director, Pima County Health Department
Shane Clark, Director, Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security
Spencer Graves, Program Manager, Public Health Emergency Preparedness Program

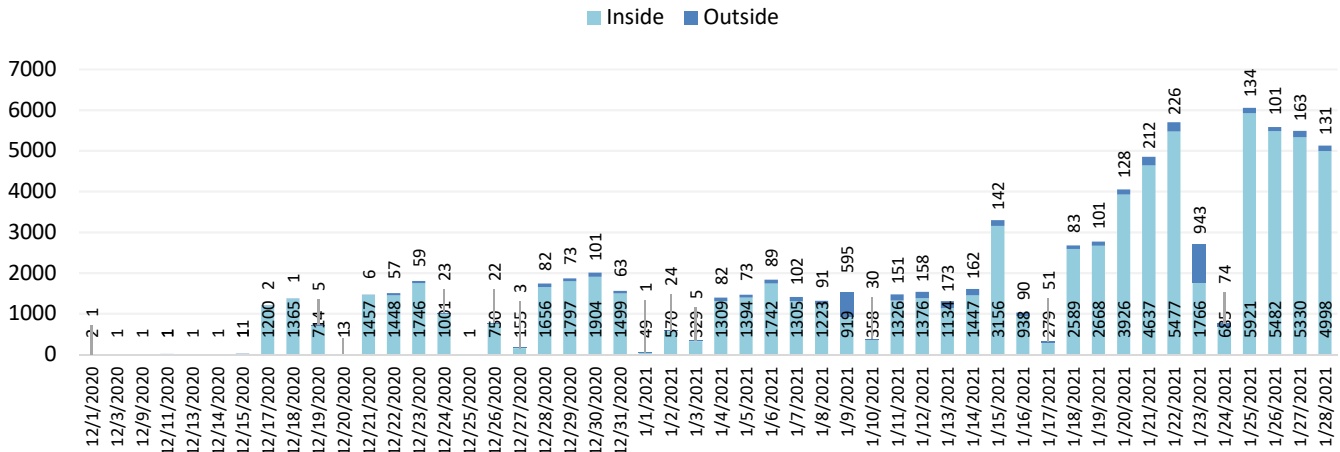
ATTACHMENT 2

Pima County COVID-19 Vaccination Report

January 29, 2021

As of January 28, 2021, a total of 83,863 (8.03%) Pima County residents have received the first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine. A total of 79,044 residents were vaccinated by a local provider in Pima County ("inside") and 4,819 residents were vaccinated by a provider outside of the county ("outside"). Note, dates that don't appear in graphs had zero vaccinations.

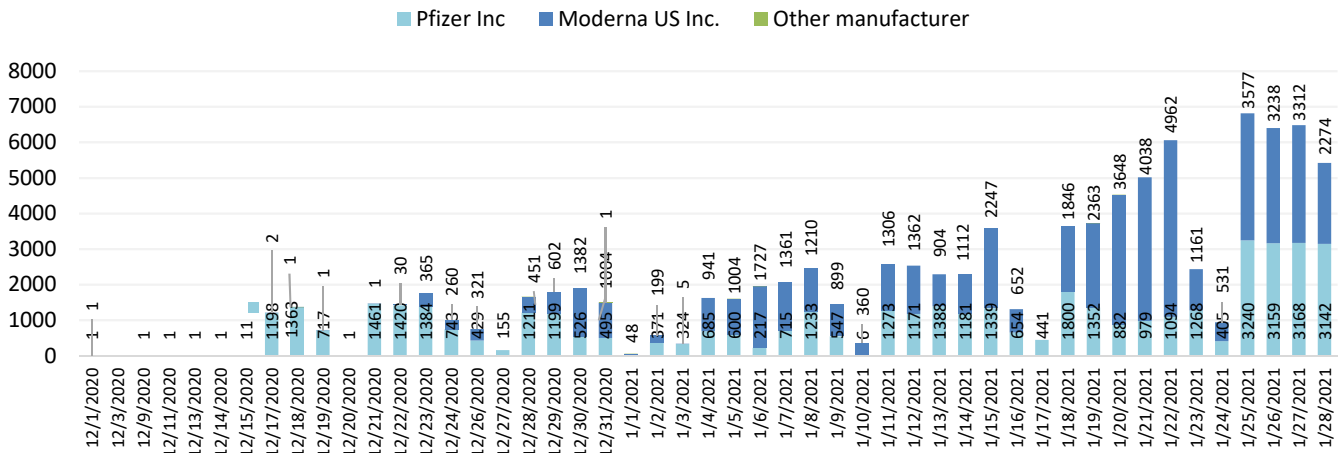
Pima County First Dose Vaccinations by Date and by Location of Service



First Time Vaccinated Residents by Gender and Age Group

	Number vaccinated	% vaccinated	2019 pop. size	% of total pop.
Residents vaccinated	83,863	100%	1,044,675	100%
Gender				
Female	51,643	62%	530,457	51%
Male	32,110	38%	514,218	49%
Unknown	110	0%		
Age group				
0 - 19	386	0%	250,118	24%
20 - 29	8,561	10%	164,060	16%
30 - 39	12,852	15%	122,736	12%
40 - 49	12,499	15%	114,326	11%
50 - 59	12,171	15%	121,325	12%
60 - 69	10,442	12%	128,571	12%
70 - 79	14,093	17%	93,065	9%
80+	12,859	15%	50,474	5%

Total Vaccines Administered in Pima County by Manufacturer



	Number	% administered
Vaccines administered	95,672	100%
Manufacturer		
Pfizer	44,947	47%
Moderna	50,712	53%
Other	13	0%
Dose number administered		
First dose	79,044	83%
Second dose	16,569	17%
Third dose	59	0%

ATTACHMENT 3



January 29, 2021

The Honorable Douglas Ducey, Governor
State of Arizona
1700 W. Washington Street
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Re: **COVID-19 Funding Assistance for Vaccination and Testing**

Dear Governor Ducey:

We very much appreciate your leadership and that of the Arizona Department of Health Services in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic in Arizona, which began in February 2020 is now nearing the one-year mark and it has left many communities devastated.

The Federal Coronavirus Relief Act was a great assistance in allowing local communities, including counties, cities and towns to respond to this public health crisis. The most recent act of Congress, the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 provided significant additional funding to the State to carry on our efforts against the Coronavirus. Specifically, the \$416 million received by the State for COVID-19 testing and \$66 million received for vaccination. Our efforts and obligations are increasing, not decreasing, particularly in areas of vaccination and COVID-19 testing.

We would appreciate your earliest possible decisions on distribution of federal funding from the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 to assist our local communities in both the vaccination process and to continue important and urgently needed COVID-19 testing.

Sincerely,

The Honorable Sharon Bronson
Chair, Pima County Board of Supervisors

The Honorable Regina Romero
Mayor, City of Tucson

The Honorable Bob Teso
Mayor, City of South Tucson

The Honorable Ed Honea
Mayor, Town of Marana

The Honorable Joseph Winfield
Mayor, Town of Oro Valley

The Honorable Tom Murphy
Mayor, Town of Sahuarita

Governor Ducey

Re: **COVID-19 Funding Assistance for Vaccination and Testing**

January 29, 2021

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c: Chuck Huckelberry, Pima County Administrator
Michael Ortega, City Manager, City of Tucson
Veronica Moreno, City Manager, City of South Tucson
Terry Rozema, Interim Town Manager, Town of Marana
Mary Jacobs, Town Manager, Town of Oro Valley
L. Kelly Udall, Town Manager, Town of Sahuarita

ATTACHMENT 4

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VACCINE ELIGIBILITY AND PRIORITIZATION

Who is eligible for the vaccine?

- Pima County Residents
- Students
- Snowbirds
- Out-of-State Visitors

Is the vaccine mandatory?

No, the vaccine is not mandatory, but because older adults are at much greater risk of hospitalization and death from COVID-19, we strongly urge you to be vaccinated as soon as you are able.

Can my employer require me to get vaccinated?

Yes. According to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), employers may require employees to take the COVID-19 vaccine, subject to certain legally protected exceptions for disability and sincerely held religious beliefs.

Who is eligible to receive the vaccine now?

Healthcare workers and individuals 75 of age or older

When can I receive the vaccine?

Because there is high demand for the vaccine and limited supply we ask that you wait for your priority group.

Phase 1A: (Currently being vaccinated)

Healthcare Workers, Emergency Medical Service Workers, Long-Term Care Facility Staff and Residents

Phase 1B: Divided into TWO groups

Group 1

- Age 75+ (Begins 1/15/2021)
- Protective Services (Law Enforcement, Firefighters, Corrections)
- Teachers and Child Care Providers
- Age 65+ (Cannot register now. A date will be provided when this group can register)

Group 2 (Essential Workers) Timeline: End of February/March

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| • Power and utility | • Post-Office |
| • Food packaging and distribution | • Farm workers |
| • Grocery | • Airlines |
| • Public Transportation | • Restaurant Gas Station workers |
| • Business and Financial | • Critical Trades (Electricians, plumbers) |
| • State and Local Government | • Auto shop workers |
| • Critical | • Veterinarians and staff |
| • Funeral Service | |

Phase 1C: (March)

Adults of any Age with High-Risk Medical Conditions

Adults Living in Congregate Settings

Phase 2: (Early Summer)

General Population

How long will it take to vaccinate all of Pima County?

Vaccinations will continue into the summer.

Are there concrete dates set for the different phases of vaccination?

The proposed timelines are fluid and subject to change depending upon vaccine availability and resources.

Why have these groups been chosen first?

- to decrease death and serious disease
- preserve the functioning of society,
- reduce the extra burden the disease is having on people already facing disparities
- and increase the ability of everybody to enjoy health and well-being.

VACCINATION REGISTRATION AND LOCATIONS

How do I sign-up for the vaccine?

www.pima.gov/covid19vaccine or call 520-222-0119

Where can I get the vaccine?

- Tucson Medical Center
- Banner University Medical Center
- Kino Stadium
- University of Arizona
- Tucson Convention Center
- Rillito Regional Park (Race Track) – in process

Are there vaccination sites in rural areas?

Additional options for people in rural communities are being explored as vaccine supply becomes available, such as mobile outreach and through local pharmacies. More information on this will be forthcoming.

Is Pima County planning a 24/7 vaccination site?

Not at this time. The state of Arizona, however, is operating a 24/7 COVID-19 vaccination site at the [State Farm Stadium in Glendale](#).

VACCINE RELATED QUESTIONS

How many doses of the vaccine will I need?

Two doses, about three weeks apart for maximum protection.

How many vaccines have been approved?

Two vaccines have received emergency use authorization (EUA) in the United States: Pfizer and Moderna

Will I have a choice of which COVID-19 vaccine I receive?

Not at this time. Because the supplies of COVID-19 vaccine are limited right now, we are administering vaccines made by both Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine and Moderna. Both vaccines have the same level of safety and efficacy. The person who administers your vaccine will give you a sheet with information specific to the vaccine you received along with instructions on when to return for your second dose.

Where can I get additional information on the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine and the Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine?

- [Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine](#)
- [Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine](#).

Are the vaccines interchangeable?

No. The CDC recommends both doses of the series should be completed with the same product.

Can someone get the first dose in another state, and get the second dose in Arizona – and vice versa?

Yes, but it is important that you receive the same brand of vaccine as your first dose.

If I have recovered from COVID, do I need to get vaccinated?

We won't know how long immunity produced by vaccination lasts until we have more data on how well it works. However, it is best to wait 90 days from the date you are infected to get the vaccine.

What is known about the COVID-19 variants? Are they more contagious?

Multiple COVID-19 variants are emerging and circulating globally. Some are more contagious and easily spread. Some appear to cause higher viral loads in infected individuals and increased shedding of viral particles. No variants have yet been reported to cause more severe illness or an increased risk of death, or reduced vaccine efficacy.

Unfortunately, increased transmissibility leads to greater numbers of infections, which drives more people into hospitals already facing increasingly severe strain. Greater numbers of infections also lead to more deaths. Increasing numbers of infections present additional opportunities for the virus to create additional variants, thus perpetuating the cycle.

The CDC recommends limiting the number of in-person visits to public places and note "the more closely you interact with others and the longer that interaction, the higher the risk of COVID-19 spread."

Is natural immunity from getting sick with COVID-19 better than the passive immunity gained from the vaccine?

Yes. We know how to safely treat and resolve any rare allergic reactions that may arise from the vaccine far better than we know how to treat and resolve the body's often unpredictable reactions to illness from COVID-19.

How long should I wait to get vaccinated if I currently have COVID-19, or if I develop COVID-19 between vaccinations?

Because reinfection appears uncommon in the first 90 days after you have had a COVID-19 infection, it is recommended that you wait 90 days from the date you are infected to get the vaccine.

Is there a timeframe regarding wait times for COVID-19 vaccine administration with other vaccines?

Current CDC guidelines recommend administering the COVID-19 vaccine series alone, with a minimum waiting time of 14 days after any other vaccines.

The first two vaccines are mRNA vaccines – what does that mean?

mRNA vaccines take advantage of the process that cells use to make proteins in order to trigger an immune response and build immunity to COVID-19. In contrast, most vaccines use weakened or inactivated versions or components of the disease-causing pathogen to stimulate the body's immune response to create antibodies.

mRNA vaccines have strands of genetic material called mRNA inside a special coating. That coating protects the mRNA from enzymes in the body that would otherwise break it down. It also helps the mRNA enter the muscle cells near the vaccination site.

mRNA can most easily be described as instructions for the cell on how to make a piece of the “spike protein” that is unique to the virus that causes COVID-19. Since only part of the protein is made, it does not do any harm to the person vaccinated but provides immunity.

After the piece of the spike protein is made, the cell breaks down the mRNA strand and disposes of them using enzymes in the cell. It is important to note that the mRNA strand never enters the cell's nucleus or affects genetic material. mRNA vaccines do not alter or modify someone's genetic makeup.

Once displayed on the cell surface, the protein or antigen causes the immune system to begin producing antibodies and activating T-cells to fight off what it thinks is an infection. These antibodies are specific to the COVID-19 virus, which means the immune system is primed to protect against future infection.

VACCINE SAFETY / SIDE EFFECTS

Is the vaccine safe?

Yes. While it was developed faster than other vaccines, it went through the same safety trials as any other common vaccines, and is overwhelmingly safe.

What should I expect after getting the vaccine -- are there side effects?

Common side effects are:

- pain and swelling at the injection site
- fever, chills
- joint pain
- tiredness
- headache

These side effects may affect your ability to do daily activities, but they should go away in a few days.

Evidence suggests that older adults may be less likely to experience any side effects.

How do I report an adverse reaction to the vaccine?

Following administration of the vaccine, you will be held for 15 minutes for observation. Should you develop adverse effects to the vaccination thereafter, contact your health care provider.

Can the COVID vaccine give me COVID or cause me to test positive?

No

Will getting the vaccine cause me to test false positive on any of the COVID-19 tests (e.g., PCR test, antigen test or antibody test)?

Neither of the recently authorized vaccines or those being researched in the U.S. cause a positive result on either the PCR or antigen viral tests.

INDIVIDUALS WITH COMPROMISING CONDITIONS

Should I get the vaccine if I am pregnant?

Not at this time. Continue to protect yourself by social distancing, wearing a mask and washing your hands often.

Should I get the vaccine if I'm breastfeeding?

People who are breastfeeding and are part of a group recommended to receive the COVID-19 vaccine, may choose to be vaccinated, according to the CDC. mRNA vaccines are not thought to be a risk to the breastfeeding infant.

Should I worry about a severe allergic reaction to the vaccine?

Consult with your doctor to determine if it is safe for you to get vaccinated.

Should I get the vaccine if I have a compromised immune system?

According to the CDC, individuals with weakened immune systems may still receive COVID-19 vaccination if they have no contraindications to vaccination.

Should people receiving chemotherapy get the COVID-19 vaccine?

No. Clinical trials for the COVID-19 vaccines did not include people receiving chemotherapy or those with weakened immune systems, so it is still unknown how safe or effective these vaccines are in these populations.

Should people who did receive a COVID-19 vaccination during chemotherapy or immunosuppressive medications get re-vaccinated?

No, the CDC does not currently recommend re-vaccination for persons who have regained immune competence following chemotherapy or immunosuppressive medications.

If I was treated with monoclonal antibody therapy for COVID-19, should I get vaccinated?

COVID-19 reinfection appears uncommon in the first 90 days after illness. The CDC advises persons who have received monoclonal antibodies and convalescent plasma therapy wait to get vaccinated "for at least 90 days, as a precautionary measure until additional information becomes available, to avoid interference of the antibody treatment with vaccine-induced immune responses." This recommendation may change as more is learned about COVID-19 and these therapies.

If I discover that I have asymptomatic COVID-19 after I've already received the vaccine, is it harmful?

No it is not harmful. The CDC indicates that the vaccine is safe to receive if you have had a prior COVID-19 infection.

What is an Emergency Use Authorization?

The FDA can authorize describes it this way: "During a public health emergency, the FDA can use its Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) authority to allow the use of unapproved medical products, or unapproved uses of approved medical products, to diagnose, treat, or prevent serious or life-threatening diseases when certain criteria are met, including that there are no adequate, approved, and available alternatives.

Before the FDA can issue an EUA, the Secretary of Health and Human Services must make a declaration of emergency or threat justifying authorization of emergency use for a product. This [chart summarizes the process](#) for EUA issuance."

For a vaccine to be granted an EUA, manufacturers must submit clinical data generated from rigorous studies from tens of thousands of study participants to ensure safety, quality and that the benefits outweigh the risks. Both the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine and the Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine were issued EUAs.

QUESTIONS SPECIFIC TO 75+

Where should someone 75+ go to get the vaccine?

Individuals 75 and older should be vaccinated at one of the 3 hospital sites: TMC, BANNER North and BANNER South at Kino Stadium.

What if I live in rural Pima County and can't get to a hospital vaccine site in Tucson?

The Pima County Health Department is exploring options for people who are homebound or in rural Pima County who can't get to a community-based hospital. More information will be forthcoming.

How will homebound people over 75 get vaccinated?

The Pima County Health Department is exploring options for people who are homebound or in rural Pima County who can't get to a community-based hospital. More information will be forthcoming.

Where do I register?

pima.gov/covid19vaccine OR call us at 520-222-0119

What if I don't have an email or internet account- how can I get signed up for a vaccine?

You must have an email address to register. If you do not have access to a computer or internet contact the county help line at 520-222-0119

I'm 74 years old, but have high-risk medical conditions, am I in vaccination Phase 1B?

YES

GENERAL QUESTIONS

If I get the vaccine, can life go back to "normal?"

Until more people are vaccinated or recover from COVID, masking, distancing, and hand washing are still good practices as we transition back to "normal."

Once I'm vaccinated do I still need to worry about infecting others?

Even though you may be protected from disease, you may still be able to spread the virus to others.

Once I'm vaccinated do I still need to quarantine after close contact with someone infected with COVID-19?

The CDC advises vaccinated persons to continue to follow quarantine guidance after having close contact with someone infected with COVID-19. This guidance may change as more people get vaccinated and experts learn more about how long vaccine protection lasts and the degree to which vaccines may reduce transmission of the virus.

If I have an active case of COVID, can the vaccine be used as a treatment?

Individuals with an active case of COVID-19 need to wait until recovery before receiving the vaccine, according to Pima County Health Director Dr. Theresa Cullen.

What if I am under 75, but I have a high-risk medical condition, do I still have to wait?

Yes. We ask that you please defer receiving your vaccine until we have finished vaccinating individuals in Phase 1B.

Should I get the flu vaccine?

Yes, and it is not too late! As the flu season approaches our health care system could be overburdened with the on-going pandemic. The flu vaccine has proven safe and effective. You should not get the flu vaccine at the same time as the COVID-19 vaccine.

How effective is the vaccine for people over 65?

The vaccine seems highly effective in older adults. In testing, older adults also tended to have less risk of side effects from the vaccine.

How long does the immunity last?

We don't know yet. The drug trials were very recently completed and we need more data to determine how long people retain immunity.

How can I protect myself from scams?

Watch for the signs:

- You are asked to pay out of pocket for the vaccine or get on a waiting list
- Marketers offering to sell or ship doses of the vaccine for payment

Do not give out any personal information to unknown sources.

Report Scammers to:

HHS-OIG Hotline: 1-800-HHS-TIPS (1-800-447-8477)

FBI Hotline: 1-800-CALL-FBI (1-800-225-5324)

How do people register for a vaccine if they do not have internet access, when it is available?

Call 520-594-5684 and someone will help you get registered by phone.

What is meant by contingency and crisis standards of care?

Arizona hospitals are currently operating under contingency standards of care in which care is provided to patients without any changes in daily practice.

When the demand for healthcare exceeds hospitals' ability to provide that care, hospitals move into Crisis Standards of Care. This is a protocol adopted when the healthcare system is unable to provide the care that everyone needs because there are simply not enough resources or staff to take care of everyone who needs it. Hospitals are forced to make substantial changes to the way that they provide care. Providers often work outside their normal scope of practice, and supplies may need to be reused or may become completely unavailable. Supplies including medications or oxygen may become unavailable. Crisis Standards of Care also provide a protocol by which providers determine how limited care is to be rationed, and how decisions determining which patients receive treatment and which will not to be made.

Who is at higher risk for serious illness?

Those at [higher risk](#) for severe illness from COVID-19 include older adults and adults of any age with certain underlying medical conditions including heart disease, hypertension, diabetes, lung disease and cancer. It is recommended that these individuals practice enhanced prevention strategies.

VOLUNTEERS

How can health care providers sign up to be vaccinators in Pima County?

The Arizona Department of Health Services has a [Pandemic Vaccine Provider Onboard](#) link for vaccination providers to start the process. More information about the registration process is available [via this PDF](#).

- Onboarding is for providers who have cold storage, staff for administration and are willing to meet data **reporting requirements set by ADHS**
- Onboarding must be fully completed to receive vaccine
- For assistance with the tool or to check status reach out to ASIIHelpDesk@azdhs.gov

Check out the [CDC Storage and Handling Toolkit](#) for more information about storing and handling vaccine.

Can I volunteer to help get Pima County vaccinated?

Yes!

Medical Personnel: Medical personnel interested in volunteering should register through the [Medical Reserve Corps of Southern Arizona \(MRCSA\)](#). Apply directly via their [online application](#), and an MRCSA coordinator will contact you.

Non-Medical Personnel: Pima County has teamed with the Arizona Emergency System for Advance Registration of Volunteer Health Professionals (AZ-ESAR-VHP) to offer volunteer opportunities through an [online platform](#). Look for the big blue button marked "Register Now," select Add Organizations, and choose Pima County.

If I volunteer, will I get a vaccine?

We are asking volunteers to commit 36 hours of service. Those willing to do so will receive their first vaccine during their term of service.