

# AGENDA MATERIAL

DATE 2-19-21

ITEM NO. 5



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA  
Executive Office  
of the President

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February 19, 2021

Dear Mayor Romero, Tucson City Council and Pima County Board of Supervisors:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments during this historic joint meeting of the Pima County Board of Supervisors and the Tucson Mayor and Council. It is a timely coming together of community leaders to discuss an extraordinary challenge facing our community. I have very much appreciated the partnership with Mayor Romero, the council and the leadership at Pima County. We have partnered on everything from testing to reopening to now vaccinating.

The University of Arizona was honored to be asked to serve as a vaccine distribution site for Pima County, and the results have been stellar: 20,746 shots have been delivered to date. Now, as the state ramps up vaccinations with greater-capacity 24/7 sites, the University of Arizona is proud to host the first state POD in Pima County, which will benefit our community by ultimately vaccinating up to 6,000 residents per day.

But capacity is meaningless without enough vaccine to distribute. I will continue to advocate for an overall increase in vaccine available to Pima County residents. I appreciate that allotment decisions are ultimately the state's to make, but I continue to push for additional vaccines to be sent to Pima County, including in a personal meeting with Governor Ducey — and I will continue to do so. Pima County's demographics differ from the rest of the state, and our community would benefit from a disproportionate share of available vaccine.

As a Hispanic Serving Institution with Inclusion as fundamental value, designing the University's POD to maximize accessibility for our entire community is important to me. I am pleased the state's registration system can be completed entirely in Spanish and has dedicated Spanish speakers for making appointments over the phone. Our site has walk-up appointments available for people who use public transit, and we are fortunate to have bus and streetcar stops located within mere yards of the site. We also know the increased hours will be much more convenient for many Pima County residents. It also is important to note that the state has a so-called "Plus 1 Policy" of giving clinical providers the authority to determine if anyone else in an on-site vehicle can receive a vaccination. This is particularly helpful for caregivers of the most vulnerable. I have made known to state leaders that as vaccine supply increases, the UA will be ready to deploy our mobile medical vans to help meet the needs of remote communities.

I am committed to continuing to work with each of you on vaccination issues and any other challenges we may face. We will get through this together.

Bear Down and Vax Up,

Robert C. Robbins, M.D.

President

The University of Arizona

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