



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AGENDA ITEM REPORT

Requested Board Meeting Date: June 22, 2021

Title: Ordinance amending Pima County Code 8.12.030 Immunization General Regulations

Introduction/Background:

The proposed amendment clarifies the terms of the referenced Pima County Code, identifying the four instances under which immunization fees could be waived. These are specifically (1) in the event of a public health emergency, (2) under extreme financial hardship, (3) when waived by the Director for the community welfare, and (4) when done in accordance with Arizona Revised Statutes.

Discussion:

The current Code allows fee waiver only in instances when an individual patient faces extreme financial hardship and a threat to community welfare. Immunizations consistently and ubiquitously reduce threats to community welfare, so the financial hardship should be tied to existing Health Department standards. Waiver of fees by the Director in the event of community need provides for agile response to outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases and removes potential barriers to community vaccination in such instances.

Direct patient payment accounts for only fractional revenue, and the proposed changes do not impact third-party payer revenue. There is no impact to the General Fund, and impact to the Health Fund is modest.

Conclusion:

As demonstrated by the COVID-19 vaccination, community immunization is the most effective strategy for limiting the spread of vaccine-preventable disease. This revision to Pima County Code allows the Health Department to continue to immunize in a fiscally sound fashion while providing flexibility in care delivery.

Recommendation:

The Health Department recommends adoption of the Ordinance as written.

Fiscal Impact:

There will be no fiscal impact to the General Fund. Health Fund revenue will be decreased by the amount of the fees waived under the identified conditions.

Board of Supervisor District:

☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☒ All

Department: Health Telephone: 724-7843

Contact: Donald Gates Telephone: 724-7843

Department Director Signature/Date: [Signature] 06/01/21

Deputy County Administrator Signature/Date: [Signature] 28 May 2021

County Administrator Signature/Date: [Signature] 6/2/21

ORDINANCE 2021-_____

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF PIMA COUNTY,
ARIZONA RELATING TO THE GENERAL REGULATIONS GOVERNING
IMMUNIZATION BY THE PIMA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
AMENDING THE PIMA COUNTY CODE CHAPTER 8.12, HEALTH AND
SAFETY**

The Board of supervisors of Pima County Arizona finds that:

1. On August 5, 1997, the Pima County Board of Supervisors adopted Ordinance 1997-059 establishing Pima County Code 8.12.030 and defining the parameters for immunization fees requirements.
2. It is in the best interest of the County, the public health, and the residents of Pima County to amend provisions of this Code to specify conditions allowing waiver of immunization fees.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF PIMA COUNTY, ARIZONA:

SECTION 1. Ordinance No. 2012-067 and Title 8, Section 8.12.030 Subsection A are amended to read as follows:

Chapter 8.12 – IMMUNIZATION

8.12.030 – General regulations – Fee Schedule

A. No person shall receive any immunization agent at the health department without paying the required fee ~~except in the event of a public health emergency, upon proof of extreme financial hardship where the director may waive the required fee in the interest of community welfare, or when children are receiving immunizations in accordance with A.R.S. §§ 36-673 and 36-692 under one or more of the following conditions:~~

1. In the event of a public health emergency,
2. Upon proof of extreme financial hardship as set by Health Department sliding fee standards,
3. If so waived by the Health Director in the interest of community welfare, or
4. When children are receiving immunizations in accordance with A.R.S. §§ 36-673 and 36-692.

SECTION 2. This Ordinance is effective 30 days after the date of its adoption.

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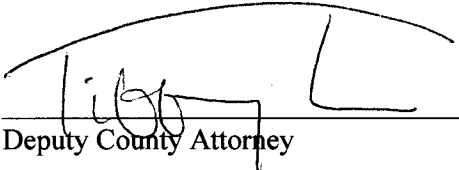
PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors, Pima County, Arizona this ____ day of _____, 2021.

Chair, Pima County Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:

Clerk of the Board

APPROVED AS TO FORM



Deputy County Attorney