



MEMORANDUM

Date: June 28, 2022

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

From: Jan Leshner 
County Administrator

Re: **Pima County Extreme Heat Response**

As temperatures rise across Pima County so do the potential threats the heat poses to those commuting, working and in some cases living out of doors. As part of its response, the Health Department works with a variety of stakeholders to identify, support and assess Heat Respite Centers. (Attachment) These cooling stations are operated by a variety of community partners and serve as a network of informal cooling centers to serve this community. The Health Department supports sites by providing bottled water, COVID-19 care kits and technical support.

Our libraries have historically provided informal respite at nineteen locations scattered throughout the Pima County. This year, in conjunction with the Community & Workforce Development, we will also be operating a Cooling Center at the Kino Service Center – 2797 E. Ajo Way. This site will remain in operation until September 15.

Additional planning and activity is under way to increase the capacity of the County to respond to extreme heat in the future. I will update the Board as that work progresses.


JKL/dym

Attachment

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

Date: June 24, 2022

To: Jan Leshner
County Administrator

From: Theresa Cullen, MD, MS 
Health Department Director

Re: Pima County Extreme Heat Response and Planning

Over the course of the pandemic, Pima County Health Department (PCHD) has recognized the importance of building community resiliency and providing targeted access to services within the community for multiple public health conditions. Extreme heat is both an emerging and present public health threat to Southern Arizona residents. PCHD is working to develop a climate resilience response to extreme heat.

Utilizing a tiered approach, PCHD continues to make progress toward the following:

Tier 1: Assess and Support Existing Heat Respite Center Network

The Tucson Pima Collaboration to End Homelessness (TPCH) facilitates the majority of the existing Heat Respite Center network within Tucson, operators include:

Salvation Army Hospitality House - 1002 N. Main Ave.
Salvation Army South Community Center - 1625 S. 3rd Ave
La Frontera - 1082 E. Ajo Way
La Frontera East Clinic – 4891 E. Grant Rd.
Grace St. Paul's Episcopal Church - 2331 E. Adams St.
Z Mansion - 288 N. Church Ave.
Primavera HIP – 702 S. 6th Ave.
Sister José Women's Center – 1050 S. Park Ave.

In addition, the City of Tucson currently operates six heat respite centers at the following locations:

Donna Liggins Center – 2160 N. 6th Ave.
El Pueblo Center – 101 W. Irvington Rd.
Udall Center – 7200 E. Tanque Verde Rd.
El Rio Center – 1930 W. Speedway Blvd.
Randolph Center – 200 S. Alvernon Way
Clements Center – 8155 E. Poinciana Dr.

PCHD supports the City of Tucson by providing water and COVID-19 care kits as needed to these locations.

Populations experiencing homelessness, those seeking respite, or information have traditionally sought out Pima County Public Library locations. PCHD has coordinated with Pima County Public Library Department to identify library locations that are currently being utilized for heat respite:

Oro Valley Public Library – 1305 W. Naranja Dr., Oro Valley
Wheeler Taft Abbett Sr. Library – 7800 N Schisler Dr., Marana
Nanini Library – 7300 N. Shannon Rd.
Flowing Wells Library – 1730 W. Wetmore Rd.
Woods Memorial Library – 3455 N. 1st Ave.
Joel D. Valdez Main Library – 101 N. Stone Ave.
Sam Lena – South Tucson Library – 1607 S. 6th Ave., South Tucson
Richard Elías Mission Library – 3770 S. Mission Rd.
Valencia Library – 202 W. Valencia Rd.
Kirk Bear Canyon Library – 8959 E. Tanque Verde Rd.
Murphy Wilmot Library – 530 N. Wilmot Rd.
Miller Golf Links Library – 9460 E. Golf Links Rd.
Martha Cooper Library - 1377 N. Catalina Ave.
Quincie Douglas Library – 1585 E. 36th St.
Eckstrom Columbus Library – 4350 E. 22nd St.
W. Anne Gibson-Esmond Station Library – 10931 E. Mary Ann Cleveland Way
Caviglia Arivaca Library – 17050 W. Arivaca Rd.
Joyner Green Valley Library – 601 N. La Canada Dr., Green Valley
Salazar Ajo Library – 15 W. Plaza St., Ajo

In addition to the current heat respite provided by the county libraries, PCHD, in conjunction with Pima County Community and Workforce Development, has developed a plan to open and operate a heat respite center at Kino Service Center at 2797 E. Ajo Way, beginning Monday, June 27, 2022, in addition to providing their ongoing services.

PCHD will operate our heat respite center May 15 - September 15 each year. It will be open during its normal business hours, Monday through Friday, 8am-5pm and closed on county holidays. PCHD will supply water bottles, sunscreen, and COVID-19 care kits to the Kino Service Center for constituents as requested. Pima County Community and Workforce Development will provide the staffing needed for the heat respite center, utilizing their staff currently in place.

Tier 2: Identification and Expansion of Heat Respite Centers and BRACE Grant Activity

PCHD will evaluate the possibility of opening a second location at the Rio Nuevo One-Stop located at 340 N. Commerce Park Loop in Tucson within the next few weeks..

In addition, PCHD is coordinating with multiple stakeholders on a BRACE (Building Resilience Against Climate Effects) grant from AzDHS and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. This includes the following:

- Creating an ArcGIS hub that will evolve to become Pima County Heat Relief Network [Heat Relief Network website](#) and serve as a platform for PCHD outreach and collaboration
- Disseminating the Pima Association of Governments heat respite center locations and services ([Resiliency Planning Maps website](#))
- Assessing existing heat respite centers
- Integrating EPA’s initiative “Schools as Community Cleaner Air and Cooling Centers” for Sunnyside Unified School District into the BRACE

Jan Lesher

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- Activation by National Weather Service of website links on extreme heat risk specific conditions and forecasts: one for [Tucson International Airport](#) and one interactive website for specific location forecasts [Pima County wide](#). This information is useful for external stakeholders and for managing resources for expected 7-day forecast demand

Concur



Francisco Garcia, Deputy County Administrator

27 June 2022

Date

c: Dan Sullivan Community Service Director
Amber Mathewson, Library Director