



MEMORANDUM

Date: April 23, 2020

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

From: C.H. Huckelberry
County Administrator 

Re: **Abbott Rapid Test Devices**

In my COVID-19 Update Report to the Board of Supervisors on April 21, 2020, I indicated the Health Department had been the recipient of two Abbott ID Now Rapid Test devices. Unfortunately, these devices only came with two boxes of testing supplies sufficient for a total of 48 tests.

When we attempted to order additional test kits through authorized distributors they were told that test supplies were on allocation and only available to those agencies with Abbott accounts. After consultation with the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS), we initiated contact with Abbott to create such an account. The regional sales representative for Abbott contacted us and indicated that at this time only ADHS is able to receive devices or supplies.

We very much appreciate the ADHS prioritizing these rapid test devices for our public health agency as they allow us to respond to specific outbreaks in facilities that have demonstrated rapid spread of COVID-19 infections as well as resulting deaths.

We have requested additional kits from ADHS, and they are well aware of our need. We are hopeful they will be eventually received, but shortages in the supply chain from the manufacturer on up may create a greater delay than expected.

Although we reported we had seen the light at the end of the tunnel in testing, in particular due to the result of receiving these rapid test devices, the light appears a little dimmer than thought.

We will continue to endeavor to receive significant additional test cartridges so these can be deployed to primarily congregate housing settings where immediate segregation of infected individuals is an important component to reducing the infectious spread of COVID-19.

CHH/anc

c: Jan Leshner, Chief Deputy County Administrator
Francisco García, MD, MPH, Deputy County Administrator & Chief Medical Officer,
Health and Community Services
Dr. Bob England, Director, Health Department