August 12, 2020

Michael Ortega, City Manager
City of Tucson
P.O. Box 27210
Tucson, Arizona 85726

Re: COVID-19 Testing at the Morris K. Udall Center and Other Public Health Sites

Dear Mr. Ortega:

Testing for the Coronavirus using the PCR test recently began at the Morris K. Udall Center and will continue until purchased tests are exhausted or the site is no longer necessary. The typical cost for a test, including all of the necessary collection, registration and reporting is approximately $155 per test.

Testing at Udall began on Friday, August 7. To date (3 days) 677 tests have been completed at Udall. Our experience is that a steady state volume of testing will not be reached for approximately two weeks. We will evaluate the percent positive test results to determine the necessity of continuing testing at Udall after that time.

To date we have conducted 12,794 tests (26 days) at our Kino site and 1,266 tests (5 days) at Flowing Wells. Mobile testing is now underway and will continue through August 19. We will also be monitoring the percent positive test results for each of our testing sites to evaluate the need for an additional site.

An additional testing site may be needed at or near the El Pueblo Community Center. If a site at El Pueblo were to be activated, it would require a commitment of that space and those resources for the balance of the calendar year. Since El Pueblo is very close to an ongoing El Rio testing site, we will also consult with El Rio before establishing a permanent testing site at El Pueblo.
Given the work demands on our public health agency, the approximate date to begin considering El Pueblo is Monday, August 31, 2020.

Sincerely,

C. H. Huckelberry
County Administrator

c: The Honorable Chairman and Members, Pima County Board of Supervisors
The Honorable Mayor and Council, City of Tucson
Jan Lesher, Chief Deputy County Administrator
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