



MEMORANDUM

Date: December 2, 2020

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

From: C.H. Huckelberry
County Administrator 

Supervisors Elect
Pima County Board of Supervisors

Re: **High School Football and Sports Activities Postponed or Cancelled due to COVID-19**

During Call to the Public on December 1, 2020, we heard from a number of parents and students concerned about the interruption in the football season related to the COVID-19 pandemic. I and our public health officials sympathize with both parents and players of high school football who have been disrupted by this action. We will certainly recommend finding a way to complete their Fall athletic season with area public school superintendents as infection conditions improve.

On November 19, 2020 (Attachment 1), we suspended all tournament play for organized sports at the Kino Sports Complex and other County facilities. This was due to the vast majority of teams being from out of state. This resulted in the cancellation of 188 teams playing in pre-scheduled tournaments on the weekend of November 20 through November 21 as well as through the Thanksgiving weekend. Of the 188 teams, 131 were from out of state or region.

The communication referenced during the Board meeting was my November 23, 2020 memorandum (Attachment 2) to the Pima County School Superintendent, which was based on significantly accelerating COVID-19 infection rates in the community.

On November 30, 2020, we communicated (Attachment 3) with the Board of Supervisors that we were also suspending use of County facilities for sports tournament leagues and team activities, which includes any team based in Pima County. This action, again, is in response to greatly accelerating COVID-19 cases.

On December 1, 2020, the Arizona Department of Health Services reported 944 new COVID-19 cases in Pima County. Again, setting an all-time high for daily COVID-19 infection reports.

I also communicated with the Superintendent of Schools that he should continue to communicate with area school superintendents and suggest that districts consider or plan for completing any suspended Fall athletic season activities by scheduling these in the late Spring. This should allow sufficient time for a decreased COVID-19 infection rate as well as vaccination of a portion of the population, which would include healthcare workers and vulnerable adults, thereby greatly reducing risks associated with vulnerable adults and the spread of COVID-19.

The Honorable Chairman and Members, Pima County Board of Supervisors
Re: **High School Football and Sports Activities Postponed or Cancelled due to COVID-19**
December 2, 2020
Page 2

While statistics were provided at Call to the Public regarding school infections, the actual infections related to schools reported through the public health agency to date are as follows:

1. There have been 924 COVID-19 cases reported to the public health agency and investigated in school settings.
2. 72 of these cases are associated with the State's definition of an infection "outbreak."
3. 52 cases related to either the classroom, lunch room activities or athletic activities. Of these 52 cases, 46 are associated with athletic activities (football, cheerleading, and volleyball), three cases associated with school lunch room exposure and three in a classroom or student-to-student transmission.

As I indicated in previous memoranda, our suspension of sport activities at County facilities will last through December 31, 2020. We are hopeful the number of COVID-19 infections will decline during this timeframe to increase healthcare and hospital capacity.

I am also encouraging our Superintendent of Schools to communicate these facts to area superintendents and advise them to consider appropriate alternatives to allow Fall sport seasons to be satisfactorily completed later in the school year if conditions warrant such.

CHH/anc

c: The Honorable Dustin Williams, Pima County School Superintendent
Jan Leshner, 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

ATTACHMENT 1



MEMORANDUM

Date: November 19, 2020

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

From: C.H. Huckelberry
County Administrator 

Re: **Cancelling of Sports Tournaments and Athletic Events at County Facilities**

Pima County is currently experiencing an accelerated rate of transmission of COVID-19 that is being seen in other parts of Arizona and across the United States. At this time, we expect to exceed the record number of weekly cases that occurred during the week of July 4, at 2,452.

This unprecedented growth in the number of cases has occurred precipitously over the past four weeks. Pima County's test positivity rate which had plateaued at 3 percent, now exceeds 10 percent. In addition, wastewater monitoring today revealed the highest levels SARS-COV-19 markers since the beginning of the surveillance in March of this year. As of November 19 we recorded 5,599 cases for the month. More than those recorded in July for the same period. We are clearly on a track for our worst month of total infections for the pandemic period which began 10 months ago.

The pending holidays are expected to generate additional case growth and hospital service demand. This comes at a time when COVID-like illness as reflected in Emergency Department and inpatient hospital diagnoses has climbed slowly in recent weeks and is now at 4 percent of all hospital visits in this community. COVID-19 case growth is now starting to impact hospital capacity and staffing at a time when hospitals are stretched to meet the needs of this community.

For these reasons, as well as the health and safety of this community and our visitors, we are invoking our public health authority and hereby cancelling all athletic events and tournament play involving interstate travel occurring on Pima County property from now through December 31, 2020. If conditions substantially improve we will reconsider this action.

c: Jan Leshar, Chief Deputy County Administrator
Francisco García, MD, MPH, Deputy County Administrator and Chief Medical Officer
Health and Community Services
Carmine DeBonis, Deputy County Administrator for Public Works
Terry Cullen, MD, MS, Public Health Director, Pima County Health Department
Christopher Cawein, Director, Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation
Reenie Ochoa, Director, Stadium District

ATTACHMENT 2



MEMORANDUM

Date: November 23, 2020

To: The Honorable Dustin Williams
Pima County School Superintendent

From: C.H. Huckelberry 
County Administrator

Re: **COVID-19 Restrictions Including Cessation of all High School Athletic Events and the Imposition of a Voluntary Curfew on School District Property**

This memorandum is to request your assistance in communicating with area public school district superintendents, as well as public charter and private schools, in asking they begin the process to immediately cease all Fall athletic events at public schools, including football practice and games.

In addition, we request your assistance in asking school administrators to prohibit the use of all public school facilities where these facilities are unavailable for public use from 8:00 pm to 5:00 am each day throughout the week.

As you know, we are at record setting COVID-19 infection levels and require the assistance of all to reduce the amount of infections that occur within the community and additional stress on the healthcare delivery system in Pima County.

Please compile a list of public school superintendents willing to comply with these requests at your earliest convenience.

c: The Honorable Chair and Members Pima County Board of Supervisors
Jan Leshner, 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

ATTACHMENT 3



MEMORANDUM

Date: November 30, 2020

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

From: C.H. Huckelberry
County Administrator *CHH*

Supervisors Elect
Pima County Board of Supervisors

Re: **Suspending Use of County Facilities for Sports Tournaments, Leagues and Team Activities**

A steady increase in COVID-19 infection rates led to a November 19, 2020 decision to stop allowing out-of-state hosted tournaments and teams to play at County sports facilities. This decision did not discontinue use of County facilities for local and Arizona-based teams and leagues.

As communicated in my November 23, 2020 memorandum, there is significant and widespread community COVID-19 infection. As a result, I made a request to the Pima County School Superintendent asking that public schools begin the process to immediately cease all Fall athletic events. The vast majority of school districts, including Tucson Unified School District and Vail School District, have responsibly acted by cancelling football and other sports for the remainder of 2020. The major outliers are the private and parochial schools. We will encourage schools and school districts to complete the suspended Fall athletic season, if the public health data supports this action, by scheduling a late Spring series of games, similar to how the University of Arizona schedules Spring football training events.

Consistent with these actions to protect public health and reduce the spread of COVID-19, I am directing Natural Resources Parks and Recreation and the Kino Sports Complex to immediately begin the process to suspend use of County facilities for sports tournaments, leagues and team use. Suspension of these activities will remain in effect through December 31, 2020. If conditions substantially improve we will reconsider this action.

CHH/anc

c: Jan Leshar, Chief Deputy County Administrator
Francisco Garcia, MD, MPH, Deputy County Administrator & Chief Medical Officer,
Health and Community Services
Carmine DeBonis Jr. Deputy County Administrator for Public Works
Terry Cullen, MD, MS, Public Health Director, Pima County Health Department
Christopher Cawein, Director, Natural Resources Parks and Recreation
Reenie Ochoa, Director, Stadium District & Kino Sports Complex