



MEMORANDUM

Date: July 10, 2020

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

From: C.H. Huckelberry
County Administrator 

Re: **Increased Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) Testing for COVID-19**

The regional PCR active viral testing site at the Kino Event Center will be active and accepting reservations beginning this weekend. The pilot program to establish appropriate protocols, spacing and flow processing for efficient and safe testing will begin July 11 and July 12. The site will be open to the public on Monday, July 13, 2020. The registration portal was recently opened and the week of July 13 to July 18 filled up in 10 minutes.

In a recent press conference, the Governor announced significantly increased testing funded by the State. Based on this press conference, the testing is concentrated in the Phoenix metropolitan area. There was little discussion as to whether this testing would be expanded to other areas of the State, even though Pima County is establishing a regional testing center.

Our regional testing and laboratory fees are being funded through County CARES Act funding and should approach \$30 million to \$40 million in costs.

Referenced in the Governor's press conference was significant additional testing in south Phoenix and Maryvale. This increased testing appears to be paid for by the State while Phoenix has a separate and significantly larger CARES Act fund distribution than either the City of Tucson or Pima County.

Additional concerns were raised when the Governor referenced paying for \$12.7 million for COVID-19 saliva testing through Arizona State University (ASU). This is the same testing that we began discussion with ASU in June. Recently, the Board of Supervisors approved an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) for this testing. Prior to final adoption of this IGA by the Board of Supervisors, we were informed the State preempted our utilization of any of the existing ASU capacity. Upon this notification, I sent the attached letter to Arizona Department of Health Services Director Dr. Cara Christ asking for an equitable share of this testing. I have yet to receive any response to this letter.

The testing program as discussed in the Governor's press conference appears to be focused on the Phoenix metropolitan area. I hope there will be testing support in all other areas of Arizona.

Attachment

c: Jan Leshar, Chief Deputy County Administrator
Francisco García, MD, MPH, Deputy County Administrator & Chief Medical Officer,
Health and Community Services
Dr. Terry Cullen, Public Health Director, Pima County Health Department



COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE

PIMA COUNTY GOVERNMENTAL CENTER
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C.H. HUCKELBERRY
County Administrator

June 30, 2020

Cara Christ, MD, MS
Director
Arizona Department of Health Services
150 N. 18th Avenue
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Re: Arizona State University COVID-19 Saliva Testing

Dear Dr. Christ:

Pima County has approved an Intergovernmental Agreement with Arizona State University (ASU) to provide active viral COVID-19 saliva testing on June 9, 2020. Today, I received a telephone call from ASU's Executive Director of Community and Corporate Engagement, Kelle Maslyn, indicating that a recent contract with the State of Arizona has now preempted our agreement with ASU and they would work on obtaining additional capacity to accommodate our previous \$2 million request for active viral COVID-19 testing.

This letter is to request that the State consider our request and provide an appropriate and reasonable share of State testing in Pima County since we have now been preempted by your recent contractual order with ASU.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Huckelberry", is written over a printed name and title. The signature is fluid and cursive.

C.H. Huckelberry
County Administrator

c: The Honorable Doug Ducey, Governor, State of Arizona
Francisco García, MD, MPH, Deputy County Administrator & Chief Medical Officer,
Health and Community Services
Dr. Terry Cullen, Public Health Director, Pima County Health Department