MEMORANDUM

Date: April 29, 2021

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

From: C.H. Huckelberry
County Administrator

Re: Board of Supervisors Mask Resolution 2020-96

The recent actions of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has generated questions about the Board of Supervisor’s Mask Resolution 2020-96, as adopted by the Board on December 4, 2020.

The new CDC guidance only applies to fully vaccinated people and advises that they can go without a mask when outdoors, except “in crowded settings and venues where there is a decreased ability to maintain physical distance.” Narrative in the guidance goes on to elaborate that unvaccinated individuals may exercise outdoors or attend small outdoor gatherings with members of their own household.

The Board’s current resolution already exempts anyone, whether fully vaccinated or not, who is “engaged in outdoor work, recreation, or exercise, when alone or as part of a group of people who live in the same household or constitute a party of 10 or less, so long as they are able to easily maintain a continuous physical distance of at least 6 feet from all other persons not part of the same household or party” (section 2.h) or otherwise any member of a group in a public space with others members of the same household (section 2.g).

Developing specific language that more broadly exempts fully vaccinated individuals from the provisions the Board’s resolution would be impractical to enforce. It would require us to distinguish between vaccinated and unvaccinated people, and could lead to unnecessary stigmatization of individuals who are not yet vaccinated at a time when we need precisely that population to come in for vaccination.

Therefore, it is my assessment that amendment of the resolution is unnecessary.

CHH/anc

c: Jan Lesher, Chief Deputy County Administrator
Carmine DeBonis, Jr., Deputy County Administrator for Public Works
Francisco Garcia, MD, MPH, Deputy County Administrator & Chief Medical Officer, Health and Community Services