



MEMORANDUM

Date: April 29, 2021

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

From: C.H. Huckelberry
County Administrator 

Re: **Release of Asylum Seekers in Ajo, Arizona and Transport to Casa Alitas**

Please see the attached data regarding the number of asylum seekers released in Ajo by the US Border Patrol. There has been no release in Ajo since Saturday, April 10.

Asylum seekers continue to be transported to Casa Alitas from Yuma, Arizona based on US Border Patrol releases in that community.

In addition, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) also released individuals to Casa Alitas. The number of releases have been approximately 40 individuals per day. We only began requesting daily reporting from Casa Alitas on the number of individuals released on April 22, 2021. Therefore, in the far right columns of the attached data, you will see the number released, including ICE emails that have been directed to Deputy County Administrator Dr. Francisco Garcia regarding releases, which shows some degree of inconsistency. However, the Casa Alitas number accurately reflects the number of asylum seekers received by Casa Alitas.

CHH/anc

Attachment

c: Jan Leshar, Chief Deputy County Administrator
Carmine DeBonis, Jr., Deputy County Administrator for Public Works
Francisco García, MD, MPH, Deputy County Administrator & Chief Medical Officer,
Health and Community Services
Teresa Bravo, International Projects Program Manager, Attractions and Tourism

Day	Date	Approximately Time Notified of Release	Time Released	# Expected	# Released by Border Patrol	(BinaxNOW) Tested	Welcome Center	Summary Notes	*Casa Alitas	Total	**ICE Emails received by Dr. Garcia	Total
Thursday	3.18.2021	5:30 PM						TB received notice of first BP release in Ajo at around 5 PM via Aaron Cooper from ISDA in Ajo. Aaron gets the BP text alerts from BP Why substation directly.				
Friday	3.19.2021	Thursday evening (5:30 PM)	9:00 AM	28	21	All negative	Casa Alitas - Tucson	All transported to Casa Alitas. Casas Alitas provided 2 shuttle vans from Gonzales shuttle company. Casa Alitas staff/volunteer assisted with testing and dropped off tests kits and PPE. No releases expected in Ajo for the weekend according to Casa Alitas during the afternoon. On Friday late afternoon, Aaron lets Teresa B. and Casa Alitas know that there will be releases on Saturday.				
Saturday	3.20.2021	Friday evening (6 PM)	10:00 AM	6 to 8	11	All negative	Casa Alitas- Tucson	Initial planning was for 6 - changed transporation plannig because 11 were released. Aaron gets alert 15 will be released on Sunday - time of release pending. Aaron hears maybe 60 will be released Sunday.				
Sunday	3.21.2021	Saturday morning (7:30 AM)	AM	60	3	All negative	Casa Alitas - Tucson	Transported to Casa Alitas.				
Monday	3.22.2021			0	0			No releases in Ajo. *16 releases in the Town of Gila Bend in the late afternoon for the first time and taken to IRC Welcome Center in Phoenix.				
Tuesday	3.23.2021	6:43 AM	12:00 PM	13	13	All negative	Casa Alitas - Tucson	RTA Bus transported to Tucson.				
Wednesday	3.24.2021			0	0			No releases in Ajo.				
Thursday	3.25.2021	7:00 AM	12:00 PM	6	6	All negative	Casa Alitas - Tucson	?				
Friday	3.26.2021	6:38 AM	12:00 PM	37	38	All negative	Casa Alitas and IRC	RTA Bus not available. Pima County provided emergency shuttle van via Gonzales Shuttle company.				
Saturday	3.27.2021	6:54 AM	10:00 AM	28	26	All negative	Casa Alitas - Tucson	Senator Kelly/Luis Heredia arranged transportation for this release. And took 7 others from AM release.				
Sunday	3.28.2021	Saturday evening (6:30 PM)	10:00 AM	10 to 15	19	All negative	IRC - Phoenix	RTA bus transported to Tucson.				
Monday	3.29.2021	6:38 AM	10:00 AM	35	39	1 positive	IRC - Phoenix	Senator Kelly/Luis Heredia arranged transportation for this release.				
Tuesday	3.30.2021	1:05 PM	5:00 PM	20	23	All negative	Casa Alitas - Tucson	Sen. Kelly/Luis Heredia coordinated transportation. No volunteers available in Ajo to test.				
Wednesday	3.31.2021	Tuesday evening	10:00 AM	24	24	All negative	Casa Alitas - Tucson	Receive drop off notice from BP the evening before release. Transported to Casa Alitas by RTA bus. Positive person with family unit transported separately by a vaccinated Ajo volunteer to Tucson to positive hotel room arranged by Casa Alitas.				
Thursday	4.1.2021	Wednesday night (8:30 PM)	10:00 AM	15	12	All negative	Casa Alitas - Tucson	Transported by RTA Bus to Casa Alitas.				
Friday	4.2.2021	Thursday night (9PM)	10:00 AM	32	32	All negative	Casa Alitas - Tucson	Aaron add Teresa Cavendish, Diego Piña Lopez, Teresa Bravo to BP Why Substation text alerts. RTA can provide transportation. Diego in Ajo today.				
Saturday	4.3.2021	Friday evening (8 PM)	10:00 AM	15	9	All negative	Casa Alitas - Tucson	Sen. Kelly/Luis Heredia coordinated transportation. Positive transported to Phx IRC by vaccinated volunteer. Pima PH will alert Maricopa PH about positive case.				
Sunday	4.4.2021	6:30 AM	10:00 AM	18	18	All negative	Casa Alitas - Tucson	Start planning for releases in Ajo at 10 AM and 5 PM. Subject to change.				
Monday	4.5.2021	Sunday evening (7 PM)	10:00 AM	20 to 25	23	All negative	Casa Alitas - Tucson	RTA Bus not available. 3 County vans pick up to transport to Casa Alitas. Learned we need to have child car seats/boosters available in county vehicles.				
Tuesday	4.6.2021	Monday evening (9 PM)	10:00 AM	12	12	All negative	Casa Alitas - Tucson	No RTA Bus is available for afternoon run. Casa Alitas has no capacity for PM release, IRC has no capacity for PM release. Picked up by County vehicle and dropped off at Casa Alitas.				
Wednesday	4.7.2021	6:30 AM	10:00 AM	20	21	1 positive	Casa Alitas - Tucson	RTA Bus available for 10 AM. Casa Alitas has capacity for this release.				
Thursday	4.8.2021	Wed evening (8:30 PM)	10:00 AM	23-25	21	1 positive	Casa Alitas - Tucson	No RTA bus available for PM release. From 15 it changed to 5 people at 1:40 PM. Transportation arranged by Luis/Sen. Kelly's contacts to IRC. From 5 people it changed to 10 (8 adults/2 children) at 3PM.				
Friday	4.9.2021	6:30 AM	10:00 AM	0	0			RTA Bus available for 10 AM. From 25 it went to 32 at 8:30 AM. RTA max capacity is 30 or 28 if a wheelchair is in the bus - car seats are not required for public transportation but encourage the use of seatbelts (also not required in public transportation). 11 children on this bus ride, some riding on parents laps - depending on age. Dropped off a case of testing kits for RTA bus to drive back to Ajo for Desert Senita.				
		8:30 AM	5:00 PM	10 to 15	10	All negative	IRC - Phoenix	RTA was not available. Aaron set up transportation with Beth at IRC to drive to Phoenix.				
		11:00 AM	5:00 PM	10	6	All negative	IRC - Phoenix	RTA Bus confirmed available for 10 AM and 5 PM releases. * Have identified 1 county employee for back up for morning release.				
		12:00 PM	5:00 PM	10 to 15	11	All negative	Casa Alitas - Tucson	RTA driver arrived to Casa Alitas to drop off and was told to go to different location - request denied. Must provide advanced notice to Cathy/RTA before changing drop off location. Spoke to Diego - the different location request was an error from his staff.				
		12:00 PM	5:00 PM	10	10	All negative	Casa Alitas - Tucson	RTA Bus confirmed available for 10 AM and 5 PM releases. (Easter!) *Have identified 1 county employee for back up for morning release.				
		11:00 AM	5:00 PM	10	6	All negative	IRC - Phoenix	RTA Bus transported to Casa Alitas/Tucson.				
		12:00 PM	5:00 PM	10	10	All negative	Casa Alitas - Tucson	RTA good to do only 10 AM releases this week.				
		12:00 PM	5:00 PM	10	10	All negative	Casa Alitas - Tucson	Transportation will be provided from Ajo to Phoenix by Corazon Neighborhood.				
		12:00 PM	5:00 PM	10	10	All negative	Casa Alitas - Tucson	RTA Bus transported to Tucson.				
		12:00 PM	5:00 PM	10	10	All negative	Casa Alitas - Tucson	County driver will transport to Casa Alitas from Ajo.				
		9:00 AM	5:00 PM	15 to 20	20	All negative	IRC - Phoenix	RTA bus transport to Tucson. 1 gentleman chose to travel to Phoenix on his own. 1 lady tested positive (also in crutches) and is being transported by a fully vaccinated Ajo volunteer to Tucson directly into Community Bridges. It was a complicated process to figure out how to transport her to Tucson. *Ajo volunteer was asking if she can drive her from Ajo to Sells and someone from Tucson pick her up from Sells.				
		1:45 PM	5:00 PM	10 to 15	10	All negative	IRC - Phoenix	County driver initially would transport to Casa Alitas from Ajo. IRC stepped up last minute and arranged transportation from Ajo to Phoenix. PM transportation still a daily challenge.				
		1:45 PM	5:00 PM	10 to 15	10	All negative	IRC - Phoenix	RTA notifies us that they will only be able to do runs once a day - instead of twice a day on the weekends. Working on getting transportation for this release.				
		1:45 PM	5:00 PM	10 to 15	10	All negative	IRC - Phoenix	RTA transportation will transport to Casa Alitas. A female with 2 children tested positive. Fully vaccinated Ajo volunteer transported to Community Bridges. 5 person family took public transportation to Phoenix to meet with family there.				
		1:45 PM	5:00 PM	10 to 15	10	All negative	IRC - Phoenix	RTA notifies us that they will only be able to do runs once a day - instead of twice a day on the weekends. Working on getting transportation for this release.				
		1:45 PM	5:00 PM	10 to 15	10	All negative	IRC - Phoenix	No AM release.				

		6:30 AM	5:00 PM	15	15	2 positives	IRC - Phoenix	IRC secured transportation. 2 people tested positive (same family unit of 3) - IRC made arrangements to transport in a separate vehicle to Phoenix.				
Saturday	4.10.2021	7:00 AM	10:00 AM		12	All negative	Casa Alitas - Tucson	RTA Bus transported to Casa Alitas/Tucson.				
		1:30 PM	5:00 PM		18	All negative	IRC - Phoenix	IRC had issues securing transportation due to high demand in buses in Phoenix. IRC secured transportation a couple of hours before release.				
Sunday	4.11.2021	8:00 AM	10:00 AM	0	0			No release in Ajo.				
		1:30 PM	5:00 PM	0	0			No release in Ajo.				
Chief Modlin agreed to move 5 PM release to 3 PM per Ron Barber/Sen. Mark Kelly. (Releases stop)												
Monday	4.12.2021	6:15 AM	10:00 AM	0	0			No release in Ajo.				
		1:00 PM	3:00 PM	0	0			No release in Ajo.				
Tuesday	4.13.2021	Monday 9:00 PM		0	0			No release in Ajo.				
		10:00 AM		0	0			No release in Ajo.				
Wednesday	4.14.2021	9:00 AM		0	0			No release in Ajo. Aaron tell my RTA Bus pulling drivers off of standby until there is a return to regularity. They have to cancel drivers last minute 4 days running.				
		9:00 AM		0	0			No release in Ajo.				
Thursday	4.15.2021	7:00 AM		0	0			Releases will depend on activity throughout the day and overnight.				
		2:30 AM		0	0			No release in Ajo.				
Friday	4.16.2021	Thursday 9 PM		0	0			No release in Ajo.				
		Thursday 9 PM		0	0			No release in Ajo.				
Saturday	4.17.2021	Friday 1:30 PM		0	0			No release in Ajo.				
		Friday 1:30 PM		0	0			No release in Ajo.				
Sunday	4.18.2021	7:30 AM		0	0			No release in Ajo.				
		8:30 AM		0	0			No release in Ajo.				
Monday	4.19.2021	6:00 AM		0	0			No release in Ajo. BP says numbers coming in are consistent but majority are being expelled, also most traffic has moved back to the Yuma area.				
		7:00 AM		0	0			No release in Ajo.				
Tuesday	4.20.2021	Monday 8:20 PM		0	0			No release in Ajo.				
		Monday 8:20 PM		0	0			No release in Ajo.				
Wednesday	4.21.2021	Tuesday 9:00 PM		0	0			No release in Ajo.				
		Tuesday 9:00 PM		0	0			No release in Ajo. CHH requested to add column with Casa Alitas intakes daily. Will also add ICE emails - not always accurate according to Teresa Cavendish.				
Thursday	4.22.2021	Wednesday 10:00 PM		0	0			No release in Ajo. Called Aaron, no more testing will be done in Ajo going forward.	29 (Yuma), 13 (BP), 2 (POE)	44	17 (6 families)	17
		Wednesday 10:00 PM		0	0			No releases in Ajo.				
Friday	4.23.2021	Thursday 9 :30 PM		0	0			No releases in Ajo.	13 (ICE), 30 (Yuma)	33	13 (4 families)	13
		Thursday 9 :30 PM		0	0			No releases in Ajo.				
Saturday	4.24.2021	Friday 9:30 PM		0	0			No releases in Ajo.	2 (ICE)	2	2 (1 family)	2
		Friday 9:30 PM		0	0			No releases in Ajo.				
Sunday	4.25.2021	Saturday 9:30 PM		0	0			No releases in Ajo.	26 (ICE)	26	26 (9 families)	26
		Saturday 9:30 PM		0	0			No releases in Ajo.				
Monday	4.26.2021	Sunday 9:30 PM		0	0			No releases in Ajo.	27 (Yuma), 12 (ICE)	42	11 (4 families)	11
		Sunday 9:30 PM		0	0			No releases in Ajo.				
Tuesday	4.27.2021	5:30 AM		0	0			No releases in Ajo.	13 (ICE), 25 (Yuma)	38	13 (3 families)	3
		5:30 AM		0	0			No releases in Ajo.				
Wednesday	4.28.2021											
Thursday	4.29.2021											
Friday	4.30.2021											
Saturday	5.1.2021											
Sunday	5.2.2021											