




MEMORANDUM

Date: February 16, 2021

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

From: C.H. Huckelberry
County Administrator 

Re: **Partial County Responses to Funding Survey**

Please see the attached responses from eight counties to three questions regarding State funding for COVID-19 vaccinations and testing. It appears that, of those counties responding to the survey, only three have received some notice of funding for vaccinations and none have received funding for COVID-19 testing.

Of the counties responding to testing, the State has provided free Binax-NOW rapid test kits to three counties. These tests are less accurate than the PCR test utilized by Pima County. We appear to be the only county of those surveyed paying for a significant amount of COVID-19 testing. Also, it appears we are the only county paying for a more accurate COVID-19 PCR test.

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
Terry Cullen, MD, MS, Public Health Director, Pima County Health Department

County Responses to COVID – 19 Funding Survey

Haley Nicoll – PHEP Manager – Apache County

Question No. 1

- No

Question No. 2

- The tests that we are currently using are the BINAX Now rapid tests provided by the state. They expire in March 2021, so once they expire, we will be conducting AZ state lab tests. The cost associated with this is the courier fee. Swabs and media have been provided by ADHS.

Question No. 3

- We have not received any new guidance regarding sharing an allocation with the state in the future. If there is the option for test sharing, especially rapid tests, please email hnicoll@co.apache.az.us or ygreer@co.apache.az.us

Alicia Thompson – Health Director – Cochise County

Question No. 1

- Notice of funding for \$1,658,723 to work with community partners to set up POD's in Yavapai County

Question No. 2

- Not Applicable

Question No. 3

- Yavapai County received allocations of Binax-NOW for use by schools, first responders and community partners (to include half-way homes).

Michael O'Driscoll – Director Public Health & Emergency Management – Gila County

Question No. 1

- We have not received much about this funding yet. We know it exists but are told details will soon follow.

Question No. 2

- We have not actively paid for COVID-19 testing. We have providers that provide free testing with the free testing kit we provide. We do not have direct contracts with testing providers.

Question No. 3

- We have received additional quantities of the Binax Rapid tests for distribution to our testing partners.

James Menlove – County Manager – Gila County

Question No. 1

- No

Question No. 2

- We receive ELC funding that provides the money to purchase test kits. ADHS has contracted with TestNow that provides testing sites in Gila County free of charge. We are receiving weekly BinexNow rapid test kits for free. The state has the contracts with ASU and TestNow to provide the testing.

Question No. 3

- AHDS shares the BinexNow rapid test kits with Gila County free of charge.

Maricopa County

No Additional Funding from the state

Denise Burley – Public Health Director – Mohave County

Question No. 1

- No

Question No. 2

- No

Question No. 3

- No

Brian Douglas – Health Department Director – Navajo County

Question No. 1

- Yes

Question No. 2

- No, we do not pay for testing

Question No. 3

- No

Janelle Linn – Acting Health Director – Navajo County

Question No. 1

- No

Question No. 2

- No. We defer all testing to our healthcare partners. Our efforts are strictly focused on surveillance (contact tracing and patient monitoring) and vaccinations. We have however, submitted a throughput plan to ADHS in relation to vaccine dispensing through PODs as part of a request for funding from the \$66 million for vaccine efforts but have received no feedback or indication that funding will be allocated our way.

Question No. 3

- No

Chuck Huckleberry – County Administrator – Pima County

Question No. 1

- Yes

Question No. 2

- Yes, Pima County pays for approximately 65 percent of all COVID testing in the County

Question No. 3

- NO despite a letter from the Chair of the Board and all Mayors in Pima for funding.

Kathy Yancy – Finance & Operations Manager – Yavapai County

Question No. 1

- Notice of funding for \$1,658,723 to work with community partners to set up POD's in Yavapai County

Question No. 2

- Not Applicable

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- Yavapai County received allocations of Binax-NOW for use by schools, first responders and community partners (to include half-way homes).

Question Key

Question No. 1 – Has your county received funding from the state or notice of funding from the state, for vaccination points of dispensing (PODs) that the state will set up within the county?

Question No. 2 – Does your county actively pay for COVID - 19 testing for their residents or individuals within their county? Does your county have direct contracts with COVID - 19 testing contractors? If so, what is the average monthly cost for these tests paid for locally by your county?

Question No. 3 – Has your county been contacted by the state regarding any proposed sharing of the State's allocation for COVID - 19 testing?