



MEMORANDUM

Date: February 1, 2021

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

From: C.H. Huckelberry
County Administrator

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C.H. Huckelberry", is written over the typed name and title.

Re: **January 29, 2021 Letter from Arizona Department of Health Services Director Dr. Cara Christ Regarding the State's Vaccination Strategy and Pima County's Request for a State Operated POD**

Please see the attached correspondence from Arizona Department of Health Services Dr. Cara Christ in response to our request for State assistance in setting up a point of dispensing (POD) at Rillito Park. (Attachment 1)

My response simply requests consultation when vaccine allocations are made, particularly if the Pima County allocation will first have the amount utilized at a State operated 24/7 vaccination site deducted. (Attachment 2) We are concerned that such a reduction will limit our ability to reach the most vulnerable populations as well as disadvantaged communities given the present short supply of vaccines.

CHH/anc

Attachments

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

ATTACHMENT 1



ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

January 29, 2021

Mr. C.H. Huckelberry
County Administrator
Pima County Governmental Center
130 West Congress, Floor 10
Tucson, Arizona 85701

Dear Mr. Huckelberry:

Thank you for your letter. As part of the state's vaccination strategy, we continue to work with our county health partners to develop strategies to increase access to vaccination. My team has been working closely with Dr. Cullen on Pima County's vaccine strategy and identifying ways the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) can assist with those efforts.

In Dr. Cullen's 12/17/2020 email to my team, it was clear Pima County was taking steps to avoid having a state-run POD placed in Pima County, stating "We were made aware of the proposed Wells Fargo Stadium [State Farm Stadium] large vaccine site in Maricopa. I want to make sure that there are not plans like this for Pima—we are standing up an additional four pod[s.]" Adding, at the end, "We want to make sure that we are not in a situation where you think that we will need another large POD in Pima." However, given the clarification in your recent correspondence, we are encouraged Pima County is amenable to our support for vaccination efforts.

To that end, I am pleased to notify you that we are planning to set up a state-run 24/7 vaccination site in Pima County. ADHS will work with the Arizona Department of Emergency and Military Affairs (DEMA) to select the vaccination site and discuss logistics. In order to operate the 24/7 vaccination site, the state will retain the necessary vaccine from the Pima County allocation to ensure sufficient vaccine for scheduled appointments. Any remaining doses of vaccine will be passed on to the county for further allocation. We will notify the Pima County Health Department once details are finalized.

We will continue to work with Pima County to ensure compliance with Governor Ducey's Executive Order 2021-01. Providers that have received at least 1,000 doses and have over


Douglas A. Ducey | Governor Cara M. Christ, MD, MS | Director

Mr. C.H. Huckelberry
January 29, 2021
Page 2

40% of their total doses remaining as of January 25 are not eligible for additional allocations of vaccine. My team is currently evaluating the plans of the providers that met these criteria and will be working with the Pima County public health team.

I appreciate Pima County's partnership and the dedication of your public health team in addressing strategies to prevent and control COVID-19.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cara M. Christ MD". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Cara M Christ, MD
Director

Douglas A. Ducey | Governor Cara M. Christ, MD, MS | Director

ATTACHMENT 2



COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE

PIMA COUNTY GOVERNMENTAL CENTER
130 W. CONGRESS, FLOOR 10, TUCSON, AZ 85701-1317
(520) 724-8661 FAX (520) 724-8171

C.H. HUCKELBERRY
County Administrator

February 1, 2021

Cara Christ, MD, MS, Director
Arizona Department of Health Services
150 N. 18th Avenue, Suite 500
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Re: Your January 29, 2021 Letter Regarding the State's Vaccination Strategy and Pima County's Request for a State Operated POD

Dear Dr. Christ:

I appreciate acknowledgement of our request for State assistance in setting up a State operated 24/7 vaccination site in Pima County.

Dr. Cullen's December 17, 2020 email was the first date that the 1A population began the vaccination process. At that time, we had adequate local vaccination centers for that population. With the eligibility of the 1B population, we would now like to add to our vaccination capacity, particularly as more vaccine becomes available. Last Friday, we administered 6,600 vaccinations, at this rate we will quickly exceed our weekly allocation.

When determining vaccinations to be allocated to a State operated facility, we would appreciate consultation as our Accelerated Vaccination Plan calls for ensuring the most vulnerable are vaccinated first and that we provide equal access to vaccine for disadvantaged populations.

Regarding the Governor's Executive Order 2021-01, issued January 26, 2021, there were several startup miscues. Our Health Department (Health) was not informed about the methodology of the immunization utilization reports, including the calculation, what is included in the denominator from the allocation and the data that was used when the report was run. One of our PODs received an initial notice that they had used less than 40 percent of their vaccinations but this was subsequently retracted by the state. Another POD was initially informed that they had not submitted the information required but this was subsequently corrected by AzDHS after Health challenged that this information had been submitted by this POD. To help assist our PODs, we would ask to understand the calculation methodology, have a preview of the messaging to our partners who receive allocations as

Dr. Christ

Re: Your January 29, 2021 Letter Regarding the State's Vaccination Strategy and Pima County's Request for a State Operated POD

February 1, 2021

Page 2

well as be invited to any meetings that involve these partners. We understand these are all startup irregularities. You can be assured that we are using our vaccine when supplied efficiently and effectively as our most recent vaccination rate is 10,787 per 100,000 residents, with 80 percent utilized.

We appreciate your assistance in this matter and look forward to our continuing partnership.

Sincerely,



C.H. Huckelberry
County Administrator

c: 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