MEMORANDUM

Date: January 25, 2021

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

From: C.H. Huckelberry
    County Administrator

Re: Retail Pharmacies Designated for COVID-19 Vaccinations

Our public health agency recently learned that the State Retail Pharmacy Program will allocate vaccine directly to pharmacies throughout Arizona as COVID-19 vaccination sites. A review of the list indicates there are six locations selected in Pima County out of sixty in the State. These are as follows:

Fry’s Food Store – 3770 W. Ina Road in northwest Tucson
Fry’s Food Store – 8080 S. Houghton Road in the Vail area
Fry’s Food Store – 15950 S. Rancho Sahuarita Boulevard in Sahuarita
Fry’s Food Store – 12100 N. Thornydale Road in Marana
Safeway/Albertsons – 260 W. Continental in Green Valley
Safeway/Albertsons – 12122 N. Rancho Vistoso Boulevard in Oro Valley

Pima County was not asked for input on the selection of these sites, but we are pleased to see that they are geographically distributed in the periphery of the county where older residents may experience more transportation barriers to access our high-throughput PODS

In addition, we have not been told how many doses of the COVID-19 vaccine will be provided to the retail pharmacies designated in Arizona.

At this time we understand that individuals will register on the pharmacy specific scheduling platform. We urged the State to use our same 1B.1.a priority, which is to first vaccinate those most susceptible to severe illness or death from COVID-19 (those over the age of 75). The State declined our advice and pharmacies may have less restrictive eligibility criteria.

We have little information as to how the State will notify individuals of these retail pharmacies being available or how individuals may register for and obtain a vaccine either through reservation process or simply walk in. I will provide more information if we obtain it.

CHH/anc

c: Jan Lesher, 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