



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

January 26, 2021

John R. Modlin, Interim Chief Patrol Agent
U.S. Customs and Border Protection/Tucson Sector HQ
2430 S. Swan Road
Tucson, Arizona 85711

Re: **Our Recent Conversation on January 21, 2021**

Dear Mr. Modlin:

I appreciated our introductory virtual meeting. In the past, the County has had an excellent relationship with US Customs and Border Patrol leadership and we expect to continue that relationship.

Regarding vaccination assistance for your agents, please see the enclosed letter sent to the Governor from the Arizona Border Counties requesting assistance in vaccinating Border Patrol agents. (Attachment 1) You indicated that the Emergency Management Policy Advisor for the Governor indicated to you that some approval would be forthcoming. To my knowledge, I do not believe such has been conveyed to any of the individual Supervisors who signed this letter. If the Governor indicates there are resources available to accomplish this, we would be happy to facilitate such. District 4 Supervisor Steve Christy has also expressed concern about COVID-19 vaccinations to Border Patrol Agents. (Attachment 2)

In the meantime, federal Border Patrol agents fall into the system of vaccination priorities established by the Centers for Disease Control as members of protective service workers and are eligible to register for vaccination using the various electronic means for registering and receiving an appointment. These registration portals are available at www.pima.gov/covid19vaccine.

It was a pleasure talking to you; hopefully we can meet in person in the near future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C.H. Huckelberry", written in a cursive style.

C.H. Huckelberry
County Administrator

Enclosures

c: The Honorable Chair and Members, Pima County Board of Supervisors
Jan Leshner, Chief Deputy County Administrator
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



December 23, 2020

The Honorable Doug Ducey
Governor
State of Arizona
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Re: **COVID-19 Vaccine Allocations to Border Counties**

Dear Governor Ducey,

We are pleased to hear that the State of Arizona has started vaccine allocations to each county in Arizona. We are eager to begin vaccinating our healthcare workers and essential workers, including teachers. The Border counties that include Cochise, Santa Cruz, Pima and Yuma, have vaccine needs that far exceed current supplies. Counties that share a border with Mexico have unique risks and exposure. Thus, we write to ask the State of Arizona to consider a higher vaccine allocation to meet the unusual demands in Border counties.

Vaccine allocations to Counties based solely on resident population fails to recognize the increased risk from Mexico visitors and workers. In addition, Border counties are home to approximately 5,000 Customs and Border Protection and Border Patrol officers. These officers, essential members of our community, are unique as they will compete for scarce vaccine allocations with other mandated 1B recipients in border counties.

More than 23.5 million people crossed the Border into Arizona in 2019. While that number is down due to COVID related border crossing restrictions, we anticipate that approximately 14.1 million people will have crossed the Border in 2020, a number that is sure to rise dramatically when border crossing restrictions are removed. These 14 million people enter our communities, creating an increased demand and burden on our medical resources, which highlights the inherent problem of population based vaccine allocations to Border counties.

We respectfully request that, as you and your team determine future allocations for each county, you give serious consideration to those counties that have the added responsibility for protecting federal Customs and Border Protection Patrol officers as well as travelers from Mexico into Arizona.


Because of these facts, Border counties should merit a higher allocation of vaccines than what is now simply a population-based equation. We look forward to our continued work with you and your team to defeat this terrible pandemic. We are grateful for your efforts and thank you for your consideration to this request.


The Honorable Doug Ducey
Re: **COVID-19 Vaccine Allocations to Border Counties**
DATE
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Should you have any questions please feel free to contact Teresa Bravo at (520)724-2005 or to teresa.bravo@pima.gov with any questions.

Respectfully,


The Honorable Sharon Bronson
Pima County Supervisor
Arizona Border Counties Coalition


The Honorable Ann English
Cochise County Supervisor
Arizona Border Counties Coalition


The Honorable Bruce Bracker
Santa Cruz County Supervisor
Arizona Border Counties Coalition


The Honorable Tony Reyes
Yuma County Supervisor
Arizona Border Counties Coalition

c: The Honorable Raúl M. Grijalva, Congressman – Arizona District 3
The Honorable Ann Kirkpatrick, Congresswoman – Arizona District 2
The Honorable Mark Kelly, US Senator - Arizona
The Honorable Krysten Sinema, US Senator – Arizona
Mr. Guadalupe Ramirez Jr., Director of Field Operations – CBP Tucson Field Office
Mr. John R. Modlin, Interim Sector Chief - Border Patrol Tucson Sector
Dr. Cara M. Christ, Director, Arizona Department of Health Services

ATTACHMENT 2



PIMA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

33 N. STONE AVENUE, FLOOR 11
TUCSON, ARIZONA 85701

TELEPHONE 520-724-8094
E-MAIL: district4@pima.gov

Stephen W. Christy
Supervisor, District 4

January 22, 2021

Mr. Chuck Huckelberry, County Administrator
Dr. Francisco Garcia, Deputy County Administrator
Pima County Administration
130 W. Congress Street, Floor 10
Tucson, AZ 85701

via email

Dr. Theresa Cullen, Director
Pima County Health Department
3950 S. Country Club Rd, Suite 200
Tucson, AZ 85714

via email

Re: **COVID-19 Vaccinations**
United States Border Patrol

Dear Mr. Huckelberry, Drs. Garcia and Cullen:

It has come to my attention that local United States Border Patrol Officers and Agents have been denied COVID-19 vaccines as part of the Law Enforcement Vaccination Phase. Border Patrol personnel attempting to be vaccinated were turned away and told "Pima County thought that the Veterans Administration would be providing vaccines for Border Patrol employees".

The US Border Patrol has over 1,000 active and deployed Border Patrol Officers and Agents residing and conducting operations in Pima County. Many are constituents of District 4, and are our neighbors and fellow-residents. USBP Agents are exposed to numerous individuals potentially infected with the most dangerous and virulent forms of COVID-19 in "hot-spots" on a continual and daily basis while performing their duties along our Southern Border. After potential and very real exposure, these same USBP employees return to their families, their homes, their neighborhoods and area businesses carrying with them the very real and present dangers of COVID-19 infection and spread. For Pima County to deny them vaccinations and assume without any verification or confirmation that USBP agents would be "taken care of" and inoculated by the Veterans Administration, and not as part of our law enforcement community, is both irresponsible and dangerous for USBP personnel and for our community.

I urgently request that you, and the departments you lead, investigate this matter and take all necessary action to insure that USBP personnel receive their vaccinations in the same top priority and manner that all other members of our law enforcement community are receiving.

I thank you in advance for your expeditious response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Stephen W. Christy".

Stephen W. Christy
Supervisor, District 4

c: The Hon. Ann English, Cochise County representative, Arizona Border Counties Coalition
The Hon. Sharon Bronson, Pima County representative and chair, Arizona Border Counties Coalition
The Hon. Bruce Bracker, Santa Cruz County representative, Arizona Border Counties Coalition
The Hon. Tony Reyes, Yuma County representative, Arizona Border Counties Coalition