MEMORANDUM

Date: June 2, 2021

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

From: C.H. Huckelberry
County Administrator

Re: COVID-19 Update as of June 2, 2021

Rate of Infection, Hospitalizations and Deaths

The seven day moving average for new COVID-19 infections is approximately 29 per 100,000 population and has been holding relatively steady over the last several weeks. Attachment 1 shows the number of infections occurring since the pandemic with the peak period of infections in late December 2020 to early January 2021. The number of Pima County residents hospitalized per week during this same period fluctuated from 468 to 20 hospitalizations and during that same time period deaths due to COVID-19 peaked in the third week of January 2021 at 181 and reached a low of 5 deaths earlier this month.

Vaccinations

Vaccinations at the County regional vaccination centers and the University of Arizona Point of Distribution (POD) has dramatically decreased since a peak the second week in April when the total number of vaccinations was nearly 43,824 vaccinations per week. The County regional vaccination centers are now being demobilized. The Banner South site closed on May 11 and the Tucson Convention Center site closed May 28.

On April 14 the Tucson Medical Center transitioned its hospital based vaccination site, to a community POD operating out of Udall Park. In fact, almost all County regional vaccination centers have moved to indoor sites based on weather. The County operates fixed sites at Kino Sports Complex and a scaled-down effort at the El Pueblo Library. In the future, it is likely only one fixed site will continue to provide vaccinations.

Mobile/Pop Up Sites Reaching Target Population

The County’s focus regarding vaccinations has shifted almost entirely to mobile or pop-up sites operated throughout the community. Since the County began these mobile vaccination events in March, there have been more than 145 such events. The number of planned mobile vaccination pop up events will continue throughout June 2021, utilizing both County personnel and contractors as well as the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) PODs. There are 46 mobile pop-up vaccination clinics scheduled for June.
Mobile, pop-up vaccination sites are reaching the targeted population. Data as of the end of May indicates that 15,732 vaccinations have been administered at mobile vaccination sites. The demographics associated with our mobile clinics are identified in the following table and are notably more diverse and reflective of our underlying population than what has been achieved by the state PODs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Demographics Associated with Pima County’s Mobile Vaccination Clinics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Indian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African American</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian/Pacific Islander</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Health Department’s performance addressing the needs of low-income and diverse populations has been receiving national attention. Recently the National Association of City and County Health Officials recognized our efforts with its 2021 Innovative Practice Gold Award. Perhaps more notably, the Centers for Disease Control just this week awarded a 2-year $6.5 million contract that will allow the Health Department to advance its work expand and develop new COVID prevention and mitigation resource in those communities most impacted by the pandemic.

Nearly One Million Doses Administered in Pima County

The most recent Pima County vaccination report indicates that 990,356 doses of the COVID-19 vaccine have been administered as of May 28. By the time this report reaches you, the County may have administered its one millionth dose.

In general vaccination efforts in Pima County have performed well especially in comparison to the rest of the state and the nation. Today, just under half of the population that is twelve years and over has been fully vaccinated; that is they have received two doses of Moderna or Pfizer or a single dose of Johnson & Johnson.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CDC COVID Data Tracker Comparative Percent of the Population Fully Vaccinated</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pima County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;12 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;18 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;65 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total pop</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The May 28, 2021 Vaccination Report documents that 990,356 total vaccine doses have been administered to Pima County residents, and 534,558 (or more than 51 percent) of the population in Pima County have received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. (Attachment 2) Notably, every ten-year age group older than 60 has achieved in excess of
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75 percent first dose coverage, and between 30 and 59 years are well over 50 percent in terms of first dose coverage.

COVID Vaccine Breakthrough and the Impact of Variants

As vaccine coverage continues to improve in this community, we remain vigilant and concerned. At this time the Public Health Department has documented 230 cases of COVID infection following vaccination; this represents less than 0.05% of the vaccinated population. It is encouraging that despite the occurrence of these breakthrough infections 95% of these individuals have not had severe disease requiring hospitalization.

Since the new year, 2% of (675/33,385) COVID positive specimens were forwarded to the State for whole-genome sequencing and variant identification. This surveillance has identified 255 cases involving CDC-designated Variants of Concern, including the B.1.1.7, B.1.351, B.1.427/.429, and the P.1 variant. Another 10 cases were associated with CDC-designated Variants Under Investigation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variant of Concern</th>
<th>Location First Identified</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>B.1.1.7</td>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B.1.351</td>
<td>South Africa</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B.1.427</td>
<td>California</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B.1.429</td>
<td>California</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P.1</td>
<td>Japan/Brazil</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Variants Under Investigation**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variant</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>B.1.526</td>
<td>New York</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B.1.526.1</td>
<td>New York</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P.2</td>
<td>Brazil</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Centers of Disease Control (CDC) Areas of Concern Continuum

To judge how Pima County is performing relative to all other counties in the United States, the CDC has produced an Area of Concern Continuum where they describe communities as they progress through the stages of the pandemic. This classification is based on current and recent case and testing data. By this assessment Pima County is classified as Low to Moderate Burden. This terminology is used to identify communities with minimal to moderate risk of COVID-19 transmission.

The CDC Area of Concern Continuum map is shown in Attachment 3.
Survey Regarding Vaccine Hesitancy

During late April and May, Nupoint Marketing conducted a random-sample online survey of 903 County residents age 18 and older to get a snapshot as to why some people were not choosing vaccination, and ways in which they could be incentivized to get a COVID-19 shot.

Among those not vaccinated yet, about 40 percent said they were interested in getting vaccinated or might get vaccinated. This is an encouraging number and shows there is a significant persuadable population that may still choose vaccination. A little over half said they were not interested in being vaccinated and 9.7 percent said they didn’t know.

For those who said they were not interested in being vaccinated, the top reasons were (respondents could choose more than one reason, percentages indicate the prevalence of the choice):

- Not safe (58%)
- Side effects (51.4%)
- Not a threat to their health (37.8%)
- Not effective (36.4%)
- Don’t want to be told what to do by government (35.3%)
- Concerns about vaccine safety overall (28.5%)
- Had COVID-19 and are “immune” (14%)

Those same people were then asked what it would take to get them to choose to be vaccinated. The top listed reasons were:

- More safety research (40.6%)
- More research on side effects (40.1%)
- Nothing (25.7%)

When asked if incentives would be a motivator to get vaccinated, more than two-thirds of respondents said no incentives would motivate them. Of those who said they would consider incentives, more than 40 percent said a prize or gift card would be a successful vaccination incentive.

The Health Department and the Communications Office will use these survey results to modify vaccination encouragement marketing to increase the emphasis on vaccine safety and effectiveness and expand the incentive program that was tested the last week of May.

Transition to Vaccine Incentives

During the last week of May, the Health Department began testing incentives to encourage more vaccine uptake among those delaying their vaccination or still deciding whether to be vaccinated. As part of a FEMA vaccination POD at Pima Air and Space Museum, the Health Department provided museum admission vouchers that were good for up to 30 days. About
302 vouchers were handed out during the three days of the POD at the museum, and the number of vaccine administered was greater than had been administered at the previous three-day FEMA POD.

The Arizona Lottery donated 200, $2 scratcher tickets to be handed out as incentives at PODs over the weekend. The donation was divided into two 100-ticket batches and deployed May 29 at the FEMA Westgate shopping center POD, and May 31 at PCC Desert Vista Campus FEMA POD. The tickets were restricted to people receiving the Johnson and Johnson vaccine, or a first dose of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines. At the Westgate POD, 70 scratcher tickets were handed out, which was double the first-dose or one-dose vaccination totals for the previous day at Westgate. At PCC South, the clinic was supposed to be a “second-dose” clinic for those who were vaccinated at the POD in early May. Yet the POD ended up administering about 140 first dose/one dose vaccines. Many people attributed the scratcher giveaway to their going to the POD for their vaccination.

While Health and Communications are still evaluating the data for the museum and lottery ticket incentives, the preliminary data show low-cost incentives work in encouraging people to choose vaccination. Health will continue providing incentives, and exploring the possibility of new incentives, through June.

Request to Transfer Expiring Vaccines to Border Communities to Facilitate Cross Border Commerce and to Locations within Sonora, Mexico

Vaccines have a specific shelf life and many will expire before use based on the significant slowdown of vaccination volume. The Mexico border has been closed to non-essential travel for over a year. Traditional cross border commerce has been severely limited due to this travel restriction and the economic impact of this policy action have been felt by many retailers. COVID-19 infection rates in the State of Sonora and other Mexican states remain high. Recently the Arizona Border County Coalition requested federal authorities to consider authorizing vaccines that were within two weeks of expiring to be used to vaccinate frequent travelers from Mexico to the United States as well as consider transferring expiring vaccines to Mexican authorities for their use. This concept of border vaccination is applicable to both the Mexican and Canadian border. The letter from the ABCC is attached as Attachment 4.

CHH/mp

Attachments

c: Jan Lesher, Chief Deputy County Administrator
Carmine DeBonis, Jr., Deputy County Administrator for Public Works
Francisco Garcia, MD, MPH, Deputy County Administrator & Chief Medical Officer, Health and Community Services
Terry Cullen, MD, MS, Public Health Director, Pima County Health Department
Pima County COVID-19 Deaths, Cases, and Hospitalizations Report

Chart 1: Pima County COVID-19 cases by MMWR Week

*Note: Illnesses in the last 4-7 days may not be reported yet

Updated: 6/1/2021
Chart 2: Pima County COVID-19 cases by date of specimen collection from March 3, 2020 to May 31, 2021

*Note: Illnesses in the last 4-7 days may not be reported yet

** Previous two weeks

Updated: 6/1/2021
**Chart 3:** Pima County COVID-19 deaths by date of death: March 22, 2020 to May 31, 2021

**Note:** Recent deaths may not be reported yet.

Updated: 6/1/2021
**Chart 4:** Pima County COVID-19 deaths by MMWR Week

**Note:** Recent deaths may not be reported yet.

Updated: 6/1/2021
**Chart 5:** Pima County COVID-19 cases that are hospitalized by MMWR Week

**Note:** Recent hospitalizations may not be reported yet.

*Updated: 6/1/2021*
Total doses administered to Pima County residents: 990,356*

As of May 27, 2021, a total of 534,558 (51.17%) Pima County residents have received their first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine. A total of 498,131 residents were vaccinated by a local provider in Pima County ("inside") and 36,427 residents were vaccinated by a provider outside of the county ("outside"). Note, dates that don’t appear in graphs had zero vaccinations. *Total number of vaccine doses administered to Pima County residents by all vaccine providers.

Pima County First Dose Vaccinations by Date and by Location of Service
Total Vaccines Administered in Pima County by Manufacturer and by Week

**Vaccines administered**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Manufacturer</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>% administered</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pfizer</td>
<td>476,468</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderna</td>
<td>482,456</td>
<td>49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Janssen</td>
<td>30,857</td>
<td>3.12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AstraZeneca</td>
<td>219</td>
<td>0.02%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>356</td>
<td>0.04%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>990,356</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Dose number administered**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dose number administered</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>% administered</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First dose</td>
<td>534,558</td>
<td>54%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second dose</td>
<td>438,815</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third dose</td>
<td>6,613</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fourth dose</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fifth dose</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>10,362</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Areas of Concern Continuum (AOCC) is used to describe communities as they progress through stages of the epidemic. There are 7 possible AOC classifications based on current and recent history of case and testing data for the location:

1. **Low Burden** – communities with minimal activity
2. **Moderate Burden** – communities with moderate disease activity
3. **Emerging Hotspot** – communities with a high likelihood to become hotspots in the next 1-7 days
4. **Hotspot** – communities that have reached a threshold of disease activity considered as being of high burden
5. **Sustained Hotspot** – communities that have had a high sustained case burden and may be higher risk for experiencing healthcare resource limitations
6. **High Burden – Resolving** – communities that were recently identified as hotspots and are now improving
7. **Moderate Burden – Resolving** – communities that have a moderate level of burden, but are demonstrating improvement

See Data Sources/Methods slides for more information.
May 28, 2021

Xavier Becerra, Secretary
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201

Re: Request to Transfer COVID-19 Vaccines Across International Boundaries

Dear Secretary Becerra:

The Southern Arizona Counties have been urging increased opening of the Arizona/Mexico border for business. Decreased rates of COVID-19 in Mexico would benefit this international travel and commerce. As of May 27, 2021, Sonora has over 74,499 cases of COVID-19 with over 6,334 deaths. Increasing vaccination in Sonora, helps mitigate infections and mortality. It also accelerates the return to normal commercial interchange while keeping US border communities safe by decreasing exposure to COVID-19.

Border counties will have tens of thousands of vaccine stock on hand that are risk of expiring by August. Even though these vaccines are in our control they remain a federal asset, and it is not possible for entities to transfer vaccine across international boundaries. Such authorization can only come from the federal government.

The Arizona Border Counties Coalition would like to request the ability to coordinate a transfer of county allocated vaccine that is within 14 days of expiration to public health authorities in Sonora. We are concerned that the lacking of ability to share this resource will lead to wastage. Additionally, we propose to provide vaccination opportunities with those Mexican nationals who regularly cross the international boundary for work and commerce activity.

Should you have any questions please feel free to contact Teresa Bravo at (520) 724-2005 or teresa.bravo@pima.gov.

Sincerely,

[Signatures]

The Honorable Sharon Bronson
Pima County Representative
Arizona Border Counties Coalition

The Honorable Ann English
Cochise County Representative
Arizona Border Counties Coalition
Xavier Becerra, Secretary
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The Honorable Bruce Bracker
Santa Cruz County Representative
Arizona Border Counties Coalition

The Honorable Tony Reyes
Yuma County Representative
Arizona Border Counties Coalition

c: Jeffrey Zients, White House Coronavirus Response Coordinator
   The Honorable Kyrsten Sinema, US Senator, Arizona
   The Honorable Mark Kelly, US Senator, Arizona
   The Honorable Ann Kirkpatrick, Congresswoman, Arizona District 2
   The Honorable Raúl M. Grijalva, Congressman, Arizona District 3
   The Honorable Doug Ducey, Governor, State of Arizona
   Cara Christ, MD, MS, Director, Arizona Department of Health Services
   Richard Karwaczka, Cochise County Administrator
   Jennifer St. John, Santa Cruz County Manager
   Susan K. Thorpe, Yuma County Administrator
   Chuck Huckelberry, Pima 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