

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE COCHISE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
WORK SESSION HELD ON
FRIDAY, JANUARY 22, 2021**

A work session of the Cochise County Board of Supervisors was held on Friday, January 22, 2021, at 3:00 p.m. in the Board of Supervisors' Executive Conference Room, 1415 Melody Lane, Building G, Bisbee, Arizona.

Present: Ann English, Chairman; Peggy Judd, Vice-Chairman, telephonic; Tom Crosby, Supervisor, telephonic

Staff Present: Richard G. Karwaczka, County Administrator
Sharon Gilman, Associate County Administrator
Kris Carlson, Civil Deputy County Attorney
Kim Lemons, Clerk of the Board

Attendees: Alicia Thompson, Health & Social Services Director
Martha Montano, Epidemiologist
Craig Janiszewski, Emerg Preparedness Specialist
Tammi-Jo Wilkins, Emerg Preparedness Specialist
Judy Lynn, Emergency Services Director
Daniel Duchon, Budget Manager
Paul Correa, Civil Deputy County Attorney
Cathy Traywick, County Treasurer
Martha Rodriguez, Elections Program Coordinator
Keith Buonocore, Finance Director
Elda Orduno, HR Director
Patricia Enriquez, Interim Public Defender
Marty Haverty, Public Works Director
Heather Lopez, Chief Deputy Recorder

Chairman English called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

ANY ITEM ON THIS AGENDA IS OPEN FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

THE ORDER OR DELETION OF ANY ITEM ON THIS AGENDA IS SUBJECT TO MODIFICATION AT THE MEETING

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Board of Supervisors

1. Discussion and Possible Direction on the current status of the Covid-19 Pandemic.

Chairman English acknowledged Cochise County Board of Health members in attendance.

Ms. Thompson, Ms. Montano, Mr. Janiszewski, Ms. Wilkins, and Ms. Lynn presented this item. Ms. Thompson stated that the County is moving to Prioritized Phase 1B of the vaccine prioritization set by the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS), which includes individuals aged 65 and over. In response to a question from the Board, Ms. Thompson detailed the reasoning for moving into Prioritized Phase 1B, when the County has not received enough to vaccinate all individuals aged 75 and over; ADHS bases vaccine allocation on population, and the County's population will be greatly increased, resulting in more vaccines allocated. The decision to move into Prioritized Phase 1B was made in conjunction with the team of community partners. Ms. Thompson also discussed the number of organizations and locations vaccinating people, as well as the number of doses received by the County to date.

Ms. Montano displayed, and reviewed in detail, information from ADHS as to the demographics, including age group and race, of those in Cochise County infected with, and deaths attributed to, Covid-19, and the epidemic curve of Covid-19 infections. Ms. Montano responded to questions from the Board; a copy of the information she presented will be provided to Ms. Lemons for distribution to the Board.

The Board and staff discussed various facilities and pharmacies and whether they are vaccine Points of Distribution (PODs), how to find PODs, opening vaccine distribution to Prioritized Phase 1B, the number of organizations and locations that are PODs, and the responsibility of PODs to enter their data into the ADHS vaccine immunization registry.

Mr. Janiszewski discussed the number of individuals in Phase 1A, in the age 75 and over category, and those in Prioritized Phase 1B, and noted that the County has only received 10,000 doses, some of which are second doses. He stated that the Department of Corrections will start to receive a weekly allocation that is separate from the County's. Ms. Thompson addressed rumors about running out of vaccines, and noted that the County attempts to get every weekly dose to community members within seven days.

Ms. Wilkins provided an update on the number of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) supplies that the County has distributed. She noted that the Retail Pharmacy Program, where vaccines will be sent directly to local pharmacies from the federal and state government, will begin in the next week or two. The Board and staff discussed the Retail Pharmacy Program in further detail, noting that each pharmacy will have its own registration requirements, and that there is no cost to individuals to receive the vaccine, though providers are able to bill insurance companies for an administration fee.

Ms. Lynn noted that there is nothing important to report from Emergency Services; she anticipates reporting at next week's meeting on efforts to distribute the vaccine to Border Patrol staff.

Ms. Thompson discussed the potential County call center that has been discussed at previous Board meetings; staff is continuing to work on it and is taking into consideration feedback from other counties who have established call centers.

Chairman English adjourned the meeting at 3:46 p.m.

APPROVED:

Ann English, Chairman

ATTEST:

Kim Lemons, Clerk of the Board