

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE COCHISE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
WORK SESSION HELD ON
FRIDAY, MARCH 12, 2021**

A work session of the Cochise County Board of Supervisors was held on Friday, March 12, 2021, at 10:00 a.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
Christine Roberts, Chief Civil Deputy County Attorney
Tim Mattix, Deputy Clerk of the Board

Attendees: Alicia Thompson, Health & Social Services Director
Erik McLaughlin, Medical Director
Ginger Dixon, Epidemiologist
Tammi-Jo Wilkins, Emerg Preparedness Specialist
Camila Rochin, Public Information Officer

Chairman English called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.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. Presentation by Dr. Erik McLaughlin on COVID-19 Treatment with Monoclonal Antibodies and discussion and possible direction on the current status of the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Dr. Thompson, Dr. McLaughlin, Ms. Dixon, Ms. Wilkins, and Ms. Rochin presented this item. Dr. Thompson introduced Dr. McLaughlin, who presented on Monoclonal Antibodies (mAb) treatment using a PowerPoint presentation. Dr. McLaughlin reviewed various aspects of mAb treatment in detail, providing background information on how COVID-19 infects people, what mAb is and how the antibodies are drawn out from those who have had COVID-19, and how mAb combats COVID-19. He reviewed demographics of patients who are ideal for mAb treatment, and stressed that it must be given within 10 days of symptom onset. Benson Hospital, Canyon Vista Hospital, Copper Queen Community Hospital, and Northern Cochise Hospital offer mAb treatment on an outpatient basis.

The Board and Dr. McLaughlin discussed in detail the manner in which the antibodies are withdrawn from patients to be used in mAb treatment; that the current treatment is one 250ml infusion, though research is being done on boosters; and, the potential use of

antibodies generated from other illnesses in mAb treatment for COVID-19.

Dr. Thompson introduced Ms. Dixon, who presented information about the Governor's Executive Order 2021-04 (EO) and its impact on County schools using a PowerPoint presentation. The EO requires schools to open either in-person or in a hybrid model based on transmission level. The County's case rate is substantial, while the percent positivity is moderate, and County schools will open with in-person and virtual instruction options. Schools may close due to a significant COVID-19 outbreak if the Health Department, with the approval of the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS), recommends closure. Data for schools will be updated weekly. She reviewed in detail mitigation strategies and phased mitigation and learning modes, such as prioritizing instruction over extracurricular activities and a cohorting model.

The Board and Ms. Dixon discussed in detail how contact tracing is done at schools, isolation and quarantine, and the return to school and return to work criteria, including who decides when it is appropriate to return.

Dr. Thompson stated that this was the first week in some time with fewer than 100 positive cases. In response to the Board, she confirmed that there is still a comparable number of individuals being tested. The County received 5,400 vaccine doses for this week, and will receive the same number next week. The County also received 1,200 doses of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine; it is not known when more will be received.

Ms. Wilkins reported on training for volunteers who help at vaccine Points of Dispensing (PODs) and on efforts to form a Medical Corps. Individuals interested in volunteering may email volunteer@cochise.az.gov. Staff is working with the ADHS call center to help individuals aged 65 and over register for a vaccine, and on additional vaccination events specifically for those aged 65 and over. The demand for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and surge capacity have both slowed. In response to the Board, Ms. Wilkins confirmed that no hospitals are currently experiencing a surge.

Ms. Rochin reported on public outreach efforts, including messaging to notify residents aged 65 and over to call the ADHS call center. The County received approval from the Legacy Foundation to use grant funding for direct mail efforts. She discussed the type of information that will be included, and in response to the Board stated that it will be about one month until mailers are delivered. Staff is organizing virtual Community Health Forums that will include community leaders. Staff is meeting with the School Superintendent next week to discuss the current status, support for schools, and promotional items.

The Board commended Dr. Thompson, community partners, and staff for their efforts.

Chairman English adjourned the meeting at 11:02 a.m.

APPROVED:

Ann English, Chairman

ATTEST:

Tim Mattix, Deputy Clerk of the Board