

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE COCHISE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
WORK SESSION HELD ON  
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2021**

A work session of the Cochise County Board of Supervisors was held on Friday, December 3, 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: Sharon Gilman, Associate County Administrator  
Christine Roberts, Chief Civil Deputy County Attorney  
Kim Lemons, Clerk of the Board  
Camila Rochin, Public Information Officer

Attendees: Alicia Thompson, Director, Health & Social Services  
Vicky King, Director of Nursing  
Martha Montano, Epidemiologist  
Ginger Dixon, Epidemiologist  
Daniel Williamson, Epidemiologist

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**

---

Members of the public may also [attend this meeting](#) via Microsoft Teams computer or mobile app, or via phone by calling 602-609-7513 or 888-680-6714, Conference ID 126 113 35#. If you have trouble accessing this meeting remotely, call 520-432-9200 for direction.

**Work Sessions are a time for County staff to inform and discuss agenda items with the Board of Supervisors and public comments will not be taken.**

***INTRODUCTIONS***

***ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION***

**Board of Supervisors**

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

Dr. Thompson, Ms. Lynn, Ms. King, Ms. Dixon, Ms. Montano, and Mr. Williamson presented this item using a PowerPoint presentation.

Ms. Lynn gave the status on hospitals: one hospital had to go to Crisis Standards of Care for seven days - reaching capacity, unable to accept new patients or transfer

outpatients needing a higher level of care; and another to Emergency Department Diversion - unable to accept new patients. Most hospitals are at total capacity for patients with COVID-19 patients representing under 50% of the total number. The main concern is being able to move patients to other facilities for care. The Emergency Services Department is working with the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) and the Department of Emergency and Military Affairs (DEMA) providing evidence on rural communities need for care and resources for accepting patients and providing staff.

Dr. Thompson presented a link to the Crisis Standards of Care for Arizona and noted certain points from that report.

Chairman English and staff emphasized the importance of citizens maintaining their routine medical checkups because prolonging medical care can exacerbate the emergency care situation.

Ms. Montano reviewed COVID-19 trends with increased figures for confirmed cases, hospitalizations, and deaths from a month ago. She included a graph that showed an average of 500 new cases, and an average of 22 hospitalizations per week that peaked in October. She outlined the progression of the virus, percent positivity and the percentage of breakthrough cases which increased since the Delta variant.

Ms. Dixon detailed the breakthrough cases of vaccinated and non-vaccinated adults and children and gave an overview of herd immunity.

The Board and staff discussed the impact on all the communities in Cochise County from 47 COVID-related deaths in the last month. Also, what outreach efforts need to be implemented in order to inform and educate the public with science and the facts during this third surge of the pandemic.

Dr. Thompson reiterated the facts in favor of vaccination for preventing severe disease and death even with breakthrough cases. Ms. King added vaccinations are key in keeping in hospitals out of a crisis mode and outlined eligibility requirements for vaccine boosters.

Ms. Montano gave the details of the new Omicron Variant, where it was identified and how it spreads. The severity of illness and death is unclear, but early evidence supports getting a vaccination.

Mr. Williamson presented data that school cases are up in the last month in comparison to the Spring semester and how those increased cases are having a huge impact for the schools. He reiterated that only one school is engaged in the state funded pool testing and that antibody testing does not negate quarantine.

In response to questions from the Board breakthrough cases, efficacy of vaccines, and what the test for COVID-19 identifies were revisited.

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

APPROVED:

---

Ann English, Chairman

ATTEST:

---

Kim Lemons, Clerk of the Board