

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE COCHISE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
WORK SESSION HELD ON
FRIDAY, JANUARY 21, 2022**

A work session of the Cochise County Board of Supervisors was held on Friday, January 21, 2022, 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: Tim Mattix, Deputy Clerk of the Board
Camila Rochin, Public Information Officer
Eve Kearney, Administrative Specialist

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

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

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

Ms. Montano reviewed COVID-19 trends, and effects of the spread of the Omicron variant. She compared trends between unvaccinated and fully vaccinated individuals for positivity rates, hospitalization rates, and death rates. She also gave data on confirmed cases, hospitalizations, and deaths in the County. While there has been a record number of cases in the past week, forecasting tools predict a peak in Omicron cases towards the end of January. She compared test genome sequencing for the Delta and Omicron variants, showing Omicron as the dominant variant.

Ms. King reported on vaccination statistics, including vaccination rates by zip code. Staff have been trying to ensure areas of lower vaccination rates have vaccination opportunities. The percent of eligible County residents fully vaccinated is currently

55.9%. Ms. King reviewed new vaccine guidelines, booster recommendations and eligibility for various vaccine brands. Masking has been shown to slow the spread of infection; mask recommendations, including types and fitting, were discussed.

Ms. Dixon compared breakthrough and non-breakthrough COVID-19 cases in adults and children. She reiterated that vaccination reduces rates of hospitalization and death.

Mr. Williamson presented on school-related cases since the start of the spring semester, and how many schools are currently meeting the outbreak definition.

Ms. Mitchell gave a hospital surge update, and stated that the peak of hospitalizations is forecast for mid-February. She reviewed the County's monitoring of the data from hospitals, including their status, testing rates, and needs.

The Board and staff discussed myocarditis in relation to the third vaccine dose, and reviewed the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) data collection methods and reliability of VAERS data.

Supervisor Crosby asked for consensus of the Board to give direction to staff on the presentation of VAERS data at each COVID-19 work session. There was not consensus.

Staff answered questions about school guidelines and response options when schools meet the outbreak definition. The Board and staff discussed the vaccine consent form and procedures, including changes in the last year, and the information given at the time of vaccination, and the source of the consent forms. More information on this will be presented at the next work session.

Chairman English adjourned the meeting at 10:49 a.m.

APPROVED:

Ann English, Chairman

ATTEST:

Tim Mattix, Deputy Clerk of the Board