

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE COCHISE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
WORK SESSION HELD ON  
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2022**

A work session of the Cochise County Board of Supervisors was held on Friday, February 18, 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: Richard G. Karwaczka, County Administrator  
Sharon Gilman, Deputy County Administrator  
Kris Carlson, Civil Deputy County Attorney  
Tim Mattix, Interim Clerk of the Board  
Camila Rochin, Public Information Officer

Attendees: Alicia Thompson, Health & Social Services Director  
Martha Montano, Epidemiologist  
Daniel Williamson, Epidemiologist  
Vicky King, Director of Nursing  
Kimberly Mitchell, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator

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**

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***ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION***

**Board of Supervisors**

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

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

Ms. Montano reviewed the COVID-19 trends for cases, hospitalizations, and deaths. Cases and hospitalizations have been declining since the week of January 23, 2022. The level of transmission in the County is still High, and so mitigation measures such as masks, washing hands, and social distancing are still recommended.

Mr. Williamson presented on school-related COVID-19 cases. Currently, 19 schools are meeting the outbreak definition.

Dr. Thompson presented the new COVID-19 Targeted Case Investigation and Contact Tracing Policy. Case investigation and contact tracing will only be conducted on lab

confirmed cases. The targeted populations will be the elderly, school age children, and children under 5 years old who may be enrolled in daycare. The policy also covers promoting vaccination and other public health strategies.

Due to the decline in cases, hospitalizations, and deaths, and the move away from the universal case investigation and contact tracing, Dr. Thompson recommended holding COVID-19 Work Sessions only as needed going forward. At the request of the Board, Staff will continue to post data and information on social media.

Ms. King reviewed the activity taken by Clinical Services during the latest surge. Education, vaccination, and testing were provided to County residents. For local health providers, Clinical Services has provided vaccines and updates of information on changes, new availabilities, and other notices from Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS). She reviewed vaccination changes seen through the surge and presented a list of vaccination partners.

Ms. Mitchell presented on actions taken through the hospital surge. The County has helped hospitals locating emergency staff and helped hospital administrations with planning. She reviewed various partner organizations who have helped coordinate patient transfers and resource and equipment requests. Dr. Thompson clarified that bed capacity is determined by staff availability.

Staff reviewed partnerships, Mobile Outreach Vaccination & Education for Underserved Populations, and actions taken by County Health Department staff and partners during the latest surge, including Rapid-Trace contact tracing, support provided to hospitals, mass fatality management, and support provided to schools and parents.

The Board and Staff discussed the current state of the pandemic and if it constituted a state of emergency. Dr. Thompson emphasized the level of risk during a state of High transmission, and elaborated on the difference between home tests and laboratory-confirmed tests. In response to the Board, Ms. Montano informed that there were currently five full-time Rapid-Trace personnel; and, Dr. Thompson presented data from ADHS on the number of deaths by age range. The Board and Staff discussed the reasons for continuing to monitor school-related cases.

Chairman English adjourned the meeting at 10:57 a.m.

APPROVED:

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Ann English, Chairman

ATTEST:

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Tim Mattix, Interim Clerk of the Board