

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE COCHISE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
WORK SESSION HELD ON
FRIDAY, JULY 30, 2021**

A work session of the Cochise County Board of Supervisors was held on Friday, July 30, 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
Absent: Tom Crosby, Supervisor
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
Camila Rochin, Public Information Officer
Attendees: Alicia Thompson, Health & Social Services Director
Martha Montano, Epidemiologist
Ginger Dixon, Epidemiologist
Craig Janiszewski, 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. Dixon, Mr. Janiszewski, and Ms. Rochin presented this item. Ms. Montano compared the County's positive case rates from June and July, showing a 50% increase in cases and the County is currently in Moderate transmission. Over the week of July 19-24th the percent positivity and cases per 100,000 declined in the County. The Delta variant is the prominent variant in the state of Arizona and it is confirmed to be present in Cochise County. There are no current hotspots in the County, but cases are correlated to population density.

Ms. Dixon gave an update on the national overview of the COVID-19 trends, and reviewed breakthrough cases where fully vaccinated individuals are diagnosed with COVID-19. CDC recommendations have changed to include masks for all people indoors, including the vaccinated, in substantial to high transmission areas. New recommendations also include new testing periods and masks while waiting for testing for vaccinated adults, and recommendation for masking in all school settings.

Mr. Janiszewski presented information on the benefits and importance of vaccination. Breakthrough cases were to be expected with the known vaccine efficacy rates, and vaccinated individuals have much lower chance of hospitalization and/or death. The Delta variant does seem to spread among vaccinated individuals, but at a slower rate and vaccination helps deter new variants. He emphasized the importance of testing, which is readily available throughout the County. The Delta variant is highly communicable and is being compared to the contagiousness of chicken pox. Vaccination and masking are both important mitigations. Staff expects to continue to see a slow rise of cases in the County. Ms. Montano will provide information to the Board on the general age group of those diagnosed with COVID-19.

Ms. Rochin updated on public outreach efforts and resources available. Postcards are being sent out to County residents detailing how they can get vaccinated and also include information on home visit vaccination options. Contact tracing is still ongoing.

The Board and staff discussed the timing of future Work Sessions. The consensus was to meet in two weeks and see the situation at that point in time.

Chairman English adjourned the meeting at 10:40 a.m.

APPROVED:

Ann English, Chairman

ATTEST:

Tim Mattix, Deputy Clerk of the Board