



PIMA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
3950 S. COUNTRY CLUB, Ste. 100 • TUCSON, AZ 85714

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PIMA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
TO DECLARE PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY

Tucson, Arizona – May 2, 2008 – On Tuesday, May 6, 2008, the Pima County Board of Supervisors will take action to ratify a Public Health Emergency Proclamation and Resolution (see attached). This action will open the door for Pima County to request additional human and fiscal resources from the State of Arizona in meeting the challenges of controlling the measles outbreak currently affecting our community.

Since the first measles case was diagnosed in February 2008, 17 confirmed cases have been identified in Pima County. This has necessitated aggressive and timely outbreak control measures, contact tracing, suspect case follow-up, and special vaccination clinics, which are expensive and resource intensive.

“This declaration of a public health emergency gives us greater latitude in resource allocation and utilization,” said Michelle McDonald, M.D., Chief Medical Officer for the Pima County Health Department. “We need to stem the tide of this outbreak before the unthinkable occurs and someone dies from this disease.”

Free immunization clinics will be offered tomorrow, May 3, 2008 from 8:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. at the following locations:

- Udall Park, east soccer fields, 7290 E. Tanque Verde Road
- Rillito Downs, soccer field #5, 4698 N. First Avenue
- Kino Soccer Fields, south of University Physicians Healthcare Hospital, 2500 E. Ajo Way

Be sure to bring your shot records. For more information log onto www.pimahealth.org

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**PROCLAMATION OF THE
PIMA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
DECLARING A PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY
WITHIN PIMA COUNTY**

WHEREAS, measles is a highly contagious disease that is transmitted by direct contact with infectious droplets or, less commonly, by airborne spread; and

WHEREAS, measles is potentially lethal and can cause pneumonia, seizures and permanent brain damage; and

WHEREAS, Pima County recorded its first measles outbreak in more than a decade; and

WHEREAS, aggressive and timely outbreak control measures, such as isolation, quarantine, post exposure vaccination or immune globulin, contact tracing, suspect case follow-up, and special vaccination clinics, are expensive and resource intensive; and

WHEREAS, these conditions have created a situation of extreme peril to the health and welfare of the citizens of Pima County and potentially the State of Arizona; and

WHEREAS, Pima County seeks the resources and financial support of the State of Arizona for assistance associated with the preservation of the health, welfare and safety of all citizens within the boundaries of Pima County.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED that a public health emergency exists in Pima County, Arizona, and that the Pima County Public Health Emergency Operations Plan is hereby activated and in effect until further notice.

DATED May 1, 2008.



CHAIRMAN,
PIMA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

ATTEST:



Clerk of the Board