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## Welcome to the Sept. 21 issue of "Under the Dome" - a twice-monthly newsletter from Pima County Administrator Jan Leshner

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# UNDER THE DOME

The Pima County Administrator's Newsletter 

*From the Desk of Jan Leshner, Pima County Administrator*

*Vol. 1, No. 5 - Sept. 21, 2022*

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My Under the Dome Newsletter arrives in your inbox twice a month. If you know of other people who might want to get this semi-monthly update from me, have them [CLICK HERE](#), add their email, and select "County Administrator Newsletter - Jan Leshner's Updates" from the list of subscriber topics.

If you have questions, concerns, or good news of your own to share, you can reach me at [jan.lesher@pima.gov](mailto:jan.lesher@pima.gov). If you've seen enough, you can click the unsubscribe link at the bottom of the page.

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## A new way to build the County Budget

The Board of Supervisors at its Sept. 20 meeting agreed to discuss revisions to the County budgeting process at its Oct. 4 and Nov. 1 meetings. For at least two decades, the County Administrator crafted a draft budget and presented it to the Board in April, with the Board adopting a tentative Budget in May and the final Budget in June. The Board and County Administration will discuss in the October and November meetings a new process with more and earlier Board Member input for County spending and program priorities.

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## **Board repeals employee COVID vaccination requirements**

The Board of Supervisors Sept. 20 eliminated the COVID vaccination requirement for new employees and employee promotions. It also lifted a health insurance premium surcharge for unvaccinated employees. The changes reflect legislative priorities and the new normal in Arizona as the COVID pandemic moves into an endemic disease. Regardless, there are significant benefits and cost savings for employees and taxpayers in maintaining high rates vaccination in the County workforce, which is why the Board approved extra time off for employees who get a COVID booster every year.

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## **County eviction prevention program receives national recognition**

The Office of Emergency Eviction Services received an Award of Excellence from the National Association for County Community and Economic Development (NACCED). The EELS program, which is administered through the Community and Workforce Development Department, won the award in the Homeless Coordination/Assistance category. A major component of the EELS award is the operation at Comfort Suites, which keeps people from experiencing street homelessness.

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## Health Department and Libraries distribute thousands of COVID test kits

The Health Department and the Public Library system partnered this year to make COVID home test kits available for free to members of the public. Since distribution of those test kits began in November 2021, libraries have handed out more than 48,000 tests. As we head into winter months and the holiday season, be sure you have test kits on hand and test before and after social gatherings. Pass the holiday cheer, not COVID.

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