

**YUMA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

**February 18, 2021**

**Special Meeting Minutes<sup>1</sup>**

On February 18, 2021 at 2:30 p.m., the Yuma County Board of Commissioners met for a special meeting as members of the local Yuma County COVID Task Force. Commissioner Robin Wiley and Administrator Andrea Calhoon were present throughout the meeting with meeting members joining via teleconference. Also in attendance was Northeast Colorado Health Department Director Trish McClain as well as various municipal and hospital officials. The administrators of the four Yuma County school districts were invited as guests.

*COVID Task Force* – Northeast Colorado Health Department Director Trish McClain reviewed current local data including local case counts, positivity rates, and hospitalizations. McClain discussed differences in information between local NCDHD data dashboards and CDPHE State of Colorado dashboards. McClain also reviewed a recent conversation with CDPHE representatives who expressed concern over hospitalizations related to COVID as the barrier to Yuma County’s move to Level Blue on the COVID dial. The group discussed discrepancies between the written guidance provided by the Governor’s Office and guidance and restrictions being received from CDPHE. The group requested McClain schedule a meeting with CDPHE to discuss the discrepancies seen between guidance issued and clarify required metrics for moving to a less restrictive level on the dial. Community leaders discussed frustrations with the ability to provide information locally in light of the continued and vast discrepancies in guidance as well as the local management issues related to the lack of data transparency. Also discussed were ways in which the Task Force can be a stronger support to NCHD and the continued impractical and ineffective position that local health is put in by State regulations and protocols.

Jennifer Kramer of Wray Community District Hospital reported on statistics and trends in treatments being administered through their facility. Kramer reported that, in the absence of a COVID admission since January, they no longer have a dedicated COVID ward. Kramer reported that approximately 1700 vaccines have been administered through their facility.

Beth Saxton of Yuma District Hospital provided updates on COVID topics and trends seen within Yuma healthcare facilities including testing, positivity, hospitalization, and vaccination statistics and protocols. Saxton reported two hospitalizations in February, one of which was a Washington County patient and one transfer out of the ER, which is the first transfer since January. Saxton reported of the six positive cases seen in February so far, 5 were Washington County and only one was Yuma County. The Yuma Hospital has administered approximately 1200 vaccines, including 150 educators and daycare providers.

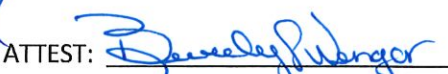
McClain provided updates on information received through her channels regarding vaccine distribution including federal direct distribution to pharmacy chains including Walmart and Walgreens within the Northeast Colorado region. McClain was unable to share how much vaccine has been distributed through these channels as the vaccine is being directly shipped from federal distribution agents to the pharmacies. Mike Burnett of NCHD presented additional information on vaccine distribution in the Northeast Colorado region including an estimated 1700 first doses and 950 second doses issued to residents of Yuma County as of last week.

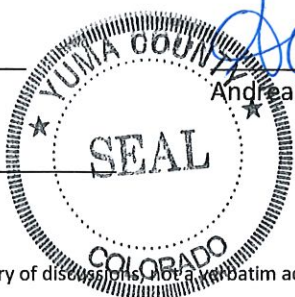
The administrators of the school districts provided updates regarding case trends and mitigation and response efforts being undertaken in their districts. The Idalia School District reported no cases seen within their district in the second semester to date.

The meeting adjourned at 2:55 p.m. The next COVID Task Force meeting will be February 25, 2021 at 2:30 p.m.

  
Trent Bushner, Chairman

  
Andrea Calhoon, Administrator

ATTEST:   
Beverly Wenger, County Clerk



<sup>1</sup> Minutes prepared by Andrea Calhoon are a summary of discussions noted in a chat account.



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