YUMA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
February 25, 2021
Special Meeting Minutes[1]

On February 25, 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 specifically shared school-age case statistics for the County including staff positivities and exposures. McClain reviewed overall County statistics trending positively with low current cases and positivity rates and no current hospitalizations reported for Yuma County. McClain reviewed both the Northeast Colorado Health Department dashboard, which now includes vaccine administration tracking, and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment Dashboard. Yuma Cunty has administered over 1700 first doses and 1100 second doses of COVID vaccine to date.

Jennifer Kramer of Wray Community District Hospital reported on statistics and trends in treatments being administered through their facility. Kramer noted dramatic decreases in the number of symptomatic patients presenting for care, which has predicated a decrease in isolation protocols in various care programs. Kramer reported on plans currently underway to prepare for the dissemination of vaccine in the next round of 1B eligibility including agricultural and food service workers. WCDH will be planning their annual health fair this year and will be conducting blood draws this spring in various communities within the County.

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 one hospitalization in the past week and one ER transfer in the last week. Saxton reported that YDH was not allotted any vaccine this week, so they are awaiting their next allotment to continue efforts toward population vaccination.
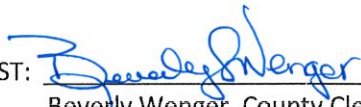
The administrators of the school districts provided updates regarding case trends and mitigation and response efforts being undertaken in their districts. The schools discussed upcoming Value Up student mental health resiliency programs in the Wray and Idalia communities funded by the local hospitals and the Task Force. Yuma hosted their program a few weeks ago. The schools reported the positive impact on student morale and activities with the move to Level Blue on the dial. The superintendents requested guidance from McClain regarding prom guidance that was recently published.
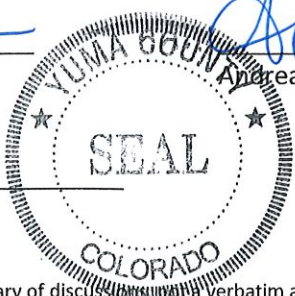
The local municipalities reported on the status of COVID response and issues within their communities including planning for recreation programs under the new Level Blue restrictions. The group discussed various community impacts of the change of level assignment including impacts to specific businesses as well as what the process would entail to move to Level Green on the State's COVID dial. McClain provided feedback on the process as well as her assessment of challenges and gains in going through that process and the comparison of moving to Level Green versus seeking site-specific variances.

The meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m. The next COVID Task Force meeting will be March 1, 2021 at 2:30 p.m.

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Trent Bushner, Chairman   Andrea Calhoon, Administrator

ATTEST: _____
            Beverly Wenger, County Clerk

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[1] Minutes prepared by Andrea Calhoon are a summary of discussions and not a verbatim account.