

**YUMA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

**October 30, 2020**

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

On October 30, 2020 at 3:00 p.m., the Yuma County Board of Commissioners met for a special meeting as members of the local Yuma County COVID Task Force. Chairman Dean Wingfield, Commissioner Robin Wiley, Commissioner Trent Bushner, and Administrator Andrea Calhoon were present throughout the meeting with meeting members joining via teleconference. Also in attendance were various municipal and hospital officials as well as Northeast Colorado Health Department Director Trish McClain. The administrators of the four Yuma County school districts joined the meeting as guests.

*COVID Task Force* – Commissioner Wiley provided updates on a call with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment earlier in the day during which CDPHE expressed pleasure with the efforts of the Yuma County Task Force in reducing local case counts and inquiring as to what additional assistance the State could offer. McClain provided her perspectives on the call and input on information gathered on similar calls with other counties in the region. The group discussed the positive impact of the local educational campaign recently implemented by the Yuma County Task Force. McClain also provided updates on upcoming changes to testing protocols, focused especially on rural and frontier counties and school districts. The changes would provide rapid testing equipment to school districts to assist in earlier identification of positive individuals to allow more targeted education very similar to the program recently implemented in Yuma County. Questions remain regarding the availability of supplies and equipment before the program will be finalized and implemented.

McClain provided updates on public health discussions currently ongoing related to test utilization and disbursement and methods to identify the appropriate application of specific types of tests in specific settings. McClain notified the group that a message is expected from the state in the near future which should include guidance on updated testing protocols that are designed to better fit specific situations. Also discussed were challenges with timelines for State lab test results and strategies that are currently under way to resolve delays in processing of tests.

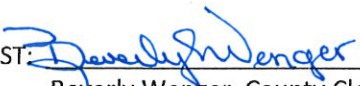
The group discussed trends in County data and a recent dip in case counts and positivity rates, including more substantive dips the most recent 7 day stretch. The two hospitals provided updates on trends seen in incidences and testing in their respective communities and neighboring communities served by their facilities. Both hospitals reported primarily very mild symptoms in community members but also reported that they have been contacted by hospital networks in more populated region with requests to take patients on behalf of other facilities.

The school administrators presented information on impacts seen in the school districts including updates to protocols for sports required by CHSSA and trends in student and staff cases.

The meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m. The next COVID Task Force meeting will be set for the week of November 2, 2020 based on group availability.

  
Dean Wingfield, Chairman

  
Andrea Calhoon, Administrator

ATTEST:   
Beverly Wenger, County Clerk



<sup>1</sup> Minutes prepared by Andrea Calhoon are a summary of discussions, not a verbatim account.