

YUMA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

March 11, 2021

Special Meeting Minutes¹

On March 11, 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 Scott Weaver 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 provided updates on the Northeast Colorado Health Department’s current data and trends within Yuma County and throughout the region. McClain also discussed Yuma County’s assignment on the COVID Dial 2.0 and associated data points. McClain reported that she would expect to be contacted by CDPHE ahead of time if they were considering a change in Dial level assignment and also shared information on upcoming COVID Dial 3.0 discussions and roll-out. McClain also commented on the challenges in receiving vaccine distributions, both for public health and for local hospitals. To date approximately 19% of the Yuma County population has received at least one dose of vaccine and approximately 13% have received both doses, which appears to be slightly ahead of other county vaccination rates in the region. The group inquired of McClain as to whether the Governor’s Office has identified a state-wide goal for immunization rates and McClain reported that there had not been a goal set yet to her knowledge, outside of age range-specific goals.

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 another week of no distribution of vaccine first doses as well as an unconfirmed report of 5 positives from a key community employer. Saxton also reported no hospitalizations or transfers since last Thursday.

John Hart of Wray Community District Hospital reported one hospitalization over a week ago and none since. Hart also reported three positive staff members at the Wray Nursing home and efforts to mitigate spread in that environment. Vaccination efforts were also reviewed including marketing efforts and challenges with not receiving vaccine distributions for multiple weeks running. Large food chain employers including ag workers are currently the focus of vaccine efforts in addition to previously vaccinated groups of first responders, educators, key community infrastructure, and those over 60. Hart discussed a mild uptick in positivity rate, though noted that the positivity increase is nowhere near the rates experienced in prior months.

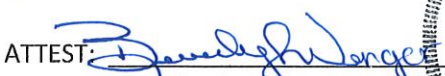
The administrators of the school districts provided updates regarding case trends and mitigation and response efforts being undertaken in their districts. Idalia is reporting no current cases going into spring break and also reported the benefit of the recently held Value Up mental and emotional health resiliency program. Wray Schools reported three current positive cases that are currently quarantined. Liberty reported no current cases within their district.

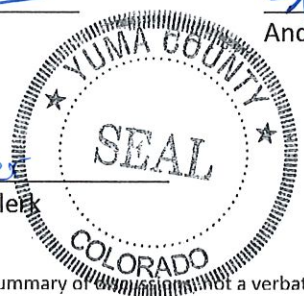
Scott Moore, City of Yuma Manager provided updates for his community and City of Wray Manager James DePue noted nothing significant to report.

The meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m. The next COVID Task Force meeting will be March 18, 2021 at 2:30 p.m.


Trent Bushner, Chairman


Andrea Calhoon, Administrator

ATTEST: 
Beverly Wenger, County Clerk



¹ Minutes prepared by Andrea Calhoon are a summary of the meeting and not a verbatim account.


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