

YUMA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

April 22, 2021

Special Meeting Minutes¹

On April 22, 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, 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 county-wide statistics including school-age children and staff, county case counts, positivity rates, hospitalizations, and testing rates. Yuma County currently has no hospitalizations and 5 current positive cases in the last two weeks. McClain reported information on Pfizer vaccines available to 16- and 17-year-old community members via the State of Colorado's vaccine bus which made two Yuma County stops in the last week. McClain reported that she has not yet received data on how many vaccines were distributed locally via the vaccine bus.

John Hart, Wray Community District Hospital Administrator, inquired of McClain as to guidance related to mandatory staff surveillance testing and quarantine requirements in nursing home settings. Hart discussed the potential impacts of surveillance testing now that all residents and staff are vaccinated and the use of resources to monitor testing and quarantine in light of full vaccination.

Wray City Manager James DePue requested interpretation of various restaurant guidance from McClain, especially related to some perceived discrepancies between seated restaurant capacity and seated indoor event mask guidance and spacing requirements between tables.

Hart provided facility updates for Wray Community District Hospital including no hospitalizations over the last several weeks and only one positive case currently being monitored.


Beth Saxton of Yuma District Hospital provided updates for their facility including significant decreases in necessary testing, no hospitalizations in over a month, and continued vaccine distribution. Saxton reported an increase in seasonal allergies and viral colds presenting in place of COVID patient presentations.

The administrators of the school districts reported no current COVID impact to operations and discussed planning operations for graduations and promotions this spring. The two municipalities reported no significant COVID-related issues to their operations. All local governments within Yuma County have lifted the mask mandate following Yuma County's move to Level Green earlier in the month.

DePue initiated a discussion as to how the Task Force would approach planning for larger-scale local events such as Wray Daze in light of the local regulatory changes. Commissioner Wiley reported that the County is planning a normal County Fair for the year and, assuming no major changes occur in local public health, events could be planned in light of the current guidance. McClain voiced support for hosting larger events outdoors when possible.

The meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m. The next COVID Task Force meeting will be April 29, 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 discussions, not a verbatim account.