

**YUMA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

**March 25, 2021**

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

On March 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, 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 Representative Reina Doyle presented county data trends including school age cases, general positivity rates, case counts, and hospitalizations for Yuma County. Public Health Nurse Tammy Hort discussed backlog information from State tests and the impact on data. The backlog contributed to what appeared to be high incident rates over the last couple of weeks that were being reflected as new positives but were not accurately reflected. Doyle addressed inquiries from the Task Force regarding the calculations for active cases and how those numbers are calculated as well as why they may not align with local case counts. Hort also confirmed that the COVID Dial 3.0 went into effect as of March 24, 2021. The group discussed the impacts of the COVID Dial 3.0 and what the new restrictions look like.

Jennifer Kramer of Wray Community District Hospital provided updates from their facility. Kramer reported 8 positives currently being monitored by the facility and 3 short term hospitalizations over the last week. Kramer noted a spike in positive asymptomatic cases due to required testing for travel and sports during the spring season. Kramer also reported that vaccination distribution issues previously experienced have resolved currently. WCDH had administered approximately 1500 first doses and approximately 1000 second doses administered before today's vaccine clinic.

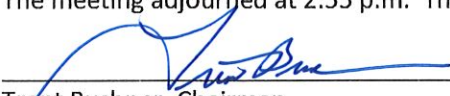
Beth Saxton of Yuma District Hospital reported 11 positives and 2 hospitalizations over the last week out of their facility. Yuma has administered about 950 first doses and approximately 800 second doses of vaccine but has not seen the same influx of vaccination doses that Wray has received so distribution has been slower. Saxton discussed challenges with community perception and messaging with the delay in distribution and the inability to meet community demands for vaccinations.

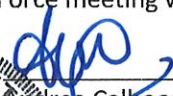
Northeast Colorado Health Department reports that they have also administered vaccines through employer-based pods primarily at agricultural employers. As of the 24<sup>th</sup>, approximately 2281 Yuma County residents had received a first dose of vaccine and 1648 had received both doses.

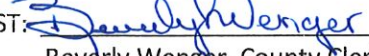
The administrators of the school districts provided updates regarding case trends and mitigation and response efforts being undertaken in their districts. Testing for sports has been the primary focus and source of positive student cases in the last week. The schools discussed work on planning efforts for graduation and prom in light of the changing COVID Dial restrictions. Kramer provided resources for the schools to assess capacity for indoor and outdoor sporting event restrictions.

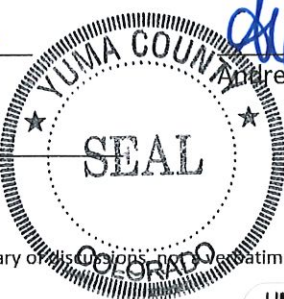
The municipalities reported no significant changes from prior status. Wray City Manager James DePue inquired about the impending changes to the COVID Dial expected in April and how the Task Force intends to respond to the potential options being discussed.

The meeting adjourned at 2:55 p.m. The next COVID Task Force meeting will be April 1, 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 this meeting and are not an official account.



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