



NEWS RELEASE

Kylee Harless
Public Health Communication Specialist
(970) 522-3741 x1246
kyleeh@nchd.org

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Yuma County Makes Mitigation Plan

Sterling, Colo. – November 2, 2020:

The Yuma County COVID-19 Task Force had a meeting on Friday, October 30th with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, and the Northeast Colorado Health Department, to discuss how the county is doing with their metrics on the COVID-19 Dial. The Task Force talked with CDPHE about the steps that the county is taking to keep the numbers down and how they can get from level 2 where they are currently, back up to level 1 where they were before.

According to the COVID-19 Dial, Yuma County's numbers are 417.4 for a two-week cumulative incidence rate and a 6.4% test positivity rate, and then less than 2 hospitalizations reported per day in that last two weeks. For the county to get back to level 1 the numbers need to go to 0-75/100,000 for a two-week cumulative incidence rate, less than 5% test positivity rate, and stable or declining hospitalizations. These numbers are not impossible for Yuma County, as the county had seen these numbers for multiple months in the past. CDPHE asked if there were any specific needs the county had of them at this time -- additional testing was discussed and hopefully more rapid testing will be available soon. The testing can feel like a double-edged sword, because counties need the testing to show negative results in order to help the test positivity rate come down, but it also shines more light on the positive cases in the community.

The county will continue to provide education and outreach to citizens and businesses to encourage social distancing, handwashing, face coverings, and to discourage social gatherings of greater than 10 people with more than 2 households.

CDPHE commended the Task Force on their work to mitigate disease transmission and will check back in with Yuma County in 2 weeks to review progress. There is no further action being taken at this time. We're encouraging everyone in Yuma County to lead by example, and step up to be the change that is necessary, to follow the big 3, and work together to slow the spread. Businesses, schools, hospitals and long term care facilities are all depending on you--thank you for doing your part.

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