



Kit Carson County Department of Public Health and Environment
252 South 14th Street
Burlington, CO 80807
719-346-7158, ext. 412

MEDIA RELEASE

January 13, 2021

Release: IMMEDIATE

From: Dawn James, Kit Carson County Department of Public Health and Environment Director, PIO

COVID Positivity Rates and Dial Position

The Kit Carson County two week COVID positivity rate for January 5 – January 19, 2021 is 15.6%. 243 people were tested and 38 were positive. For January 1 – January 19th, 282 were tested and 47 were positive. January positivity rate to date is now 16.6% - down from last week's report of 19.2%. Kit Carson County must maintain an overall incidence rate of 10% or less for two consecutive weeks in order to step down to Dial Level Yellow.

Hospital Data: Emergency Department (29 of 112 visits) 25%, up 5% from the previous 2 weeks. Acute Care (1 of 11 admissions) 9%, down 13% from the previous 2 weeks.

The County continues to operate under the Orange Level of the Dial.

Vaccine

So far, 300 doses of first-dose vaccine have been received and administered. This represents 100% of the allotment that was given to Kit Carson County up until January 17th. An additional 200 doses were approved for the mass vaccination point of dispensing that is now scheduled. In addition to this, KCCDPHE has 200 doses on hand to be given as second doses. Permission has been received to use those as first doses. KCCDPHE will try not to dip into this second dose reserve unless absolutely necessary to assure those who received their first dose that they will, indeed, receive their second doses as scheduled. The first round of second doses will be given on Friday, January 22nd. Those vaccinated thus far include front-line healthcare workers, EMS, fire, first responders, allied health professionals, the Legacy, Aspen Leaf and DDI workers and residents and people 70 years old or older.

An online registration system went live on January 11th. This is the preferred method for people to schedule their vaccine. The State of Colorado continues to reserve vaccine for those who are in Phase 1A and 1B which includes people 70 years of age and older. If you were born in or before 1951, you qualify to receive the vaccine.

MASS IMMUNIZATION POINT OF DISPENSING NOW WILL BE JANUARY 27TH

The Mass Immunization Points of Dispensing that were scheduled on January 20 and January 25th have been postponed and combined and will take place on Wednesday, January 27, 2021. The postponement

was due to uncertainty regarding receiving a shipment of vaccine in time for the point of dispensing. Right now, all 300 slots available for January 27th have been filled, however two additional Points of Dispensing have been scheduled in Stratton and Flagler on January 29th. Those who had reservations for the originally scheduled POD's have kept their place in line and were moved to January 29th at the same time of their original reservations. If you would like to reserve a spot for January 29th, there are available vaccines and you can go ahead and reserve a spot either in Stratton or in Flagler.

Prioritization for the upcoming Points of Dispensing in Burlington, Stratton and Flagler will only be for those individuals who are in the Phase 1a and 1b criteria (including anyone 70 or older). ***You must reserve a spot to receive vaccine – no one will receive the vaccine if they have not first received an appointment. No walk-ins will be accepted – no exceptions.***

To register please go to: <https://novelhealth.ai/practice/kit-carson-county-dept.-of-public-health-and-environment-301981> If you cannot get scheduled on line, please call 719-346-7158, ext. 432 and someone will help you to schedule your shot.

KCCDPHE will assess the interest and need for those who qualify in the 1A and 1B Phase after January 29th. Once it is determined that all who fit the current approved criteria are complete, plans will be put into place to begin vaccinating those in 1B who are considered essential workers including teachers. It is unclear when the State will allow local public health departments in rural communities to move to the next group.

In the most recent prioritization schedule that the Governor's office released, it is anticipated that Phase 2 will not be allowed to begin until the middle or end of February. Phase 2 will include essential workers such as grocery workers, people with underlying chronic health conditions such as diabetes, cancer, heart disease, etc. A full list of the Phases and which portion of the population is included in each phase is available at [Vaccine for Coloradans | Colorado COVID-19 Updates](#).

Kit Carson County will follow the Phases as they are outlined, however, if it is apparent that everyone who wants to receive the vaccine in a particular phase is complete, if there is vaccine still on-hand, the vaccine will be made available to the next phase so no vaccine is sitting on a shelf. The goal is to get the vaccine to those who are in the next phase with as little delay as possible.

During Phase 2, people will be asked to make a reservation for the vaccine so none is wasted. Instructions on how to make a reservation will be given to the public. The registration process for Phase 2 **will be done on-line as much as possible. Please do not inquire about Phase 2 at this time. Please wait until the health department announces that they are ready to start that Phase.** The announcement and how to make a reservation has been posted in print media, on local radio stations, on the KCC website and on various Facebook pages.

REMEMBER – SOCIAL DISTANCING IS STILL REQUIRED UNTIL HERD IMMUNITY IS ATTAINED

Even if you receive a vaccine, you still need to use caution around others. The first dose of the vaccine provides about 40% protection. After the second dose, an individual has about 95% protection from COVID. You do not reach full protection until 15 days after receiving the second dose (the body takes that long to mount immunity). For Moderna recipients, the second dose is given 28 days after the first, so it will take about two months to be considered 95% "safe" from getting COVID. So, yes, masks will still be needed for a while longer after receiving the vaccine!

Local public health and the Kit Carson County Health Services District are partnering to get the vaccine to everyone who wants it. We are striving towards at least 70% of our eligible residents to be immunized in order to achieve the all-important herd immunity. We encourage everyone who is eligible to consider being immunized to help get this virus behind us. (Currently, no Moderna COVID vaccine will be given to anyone under 18 years old). Please consider being immunized against COVID when it is your turn.

END