



Kit Carson County Department of Public Health and Environment
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MEDIA RELEASE

December 21, 2020

Release: IMMEDIATE

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

Kit Carson County positivity rate for December 1 – December 18th is 21.9%. 424 tests were done and 93 of them were positive. This is an improvement from last week's positivity rate of 24.6%. The County continues to operate under the Orange Level of the Dial.

Vaccine

Notification from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment notified the KCC Health Department that the first 100 doses of Moderna COVID Vaccine is scheduled to arrive at the health department on December 22nd. The first doses will begin to be administered to Phase 1a workers (those who are frontline healthcare workers) on Wednesday, December 23rd. Phase 1b will begin Wednesday, December 30th. This will include additional healthcare workers, and frontline response workers including pharmacy, law enforcement, Emergency Medical Services, fire service, congregate living facility residents and public health nurses. After all of Phases 1a and 1b have been completed, Phase 2 will begin as soon as vaccine is available. Phase 2 will include essential workers such as dentists, 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, once everyone who wants to receive the vaccine in a Phase is complete, if there is vaccine available, the vaccine will be made available to the next phase without regard to the estimated timing that has been posted to the CDPHE website. The goal is to get the vaccine to those who want it without delay. 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 when that process has been finalized. Please do not inquire about Phase 2 at this time or until the health department announces that they are ready to start that Phase. The announcement and how to make a reservation will be posted in print media, on local radio stations, on the KCC website and on various Facebook pages.

Information about the vaccine, its development and safety is available at [COVID-19 vaccine | Colorado COVID-19 Updates](#).

Even though the rates are showing some improvement, our county remains at a high level of positivity, and is considered "High Risk". Being careful during the Christmas holiday is very important to keep our

county from having a post-holiday spike in positive cases. This includes limiting social gatherings to immediate family members only, not going into public buildings including churches, businesses and restaurants without taking the proper precautions needed and staying home when sick, or after being exposed to someone who is sick. Remember – a common symptom of COVID is reported by many as having cold-like symptoms. Even if you think it is no more than a cold and nothing to be concerned about – stay away from other people and take social distancing precautions until your symptoms are gone!

The staff of the Kit Carson County Department of Public Health and Environment, the Health Services District and the Kit Carson County Board of Health wish you a very happy holiday season!

END