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MEDIA RELEASE

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Release: IMMEDIATE

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Kit Carson County COVID Data and Updates

For the week of February 23rd through March 2nd, 83 people were tested and 15 people were positive for COVID, with a positivity rate of 18%. For the month of February, 287 people were tested and 37 were positive for COVID, with a positivity rate of 13% for the month. This is up from the prior week's positivity rate of 11%. The target weekly positivity rate continues to be 5% or less which would indicate excellent control of the virus. The hospital reports a decline in utilization of their services and hospitalizations related to COVID. COVID is not gone and continues to spread in the county. Please continue to use caution as spring and the Easter season begins. While the weather is beginning to warm up, outside activities are encouraged, and limited indoor activities should continue even though larger gatherings are now allowable.

UPDATED VACCINE ROLLOUT FROM COLORADO STATE GOVERNMENT

Last week, the Governor's office announced that there are new "phases" of the vaccine roll out for Colorado. There are some changes, so please consider where you may fit in these new phases. If you currently have an appointment at the health department or hospital to receive the vaccine and you are now deemed not eligible because of the change, ***we are not cancelling*** your appointment and you can still plan to come on the day you were given your appointment.

People in previous phases continue to remain eligible as we move through subsequent phases.

NEW PHASES Effective 2-26-2021

1.B.2: Started February 8

- People age 65 and older
- Childcare workers in licensed child care programs
- PreK-12 educators
- State Government officials

1.B.3: Beginning March 5

- People age 60 or older

- Frontline essential workers in grocery and agriculture
- People 18-59 with 2 or more high risk conditions

NEW PHASE

1.B.4: Beginning March 21

- People age 50 or older
- Higher education (all student-facing staff)
- Frontline essential workers in food/restaurant services
- Frontline essential workers in manufacturing
- Frontline essential workers for the US postal service
- Frontline essential workers in public transit
- Frontline essential workers in public health
- Frontline essential workers in human services
- Faith leaders
- Frontline essential direct care providers for people experiencing homelessness
- Frontline essential journalists
- Continuity of local government (county court, court administrators, probation)
- People 18 – 49 with **one** of the following high risk conditions
Stroke, asthma, cystic fibrosis, high blood pressure, liver disease, damaged lung tissue, blood disorders, weakened immune systems

PHASE 2 – Will begin when enough vaccine is available – slated for the month of April

Phase 2 replaces what used to be Phase 3. This phase includes the general public or anyone who is not included in earlier phases because they have lower risk of exposure or are less likely to have severe outcomes from COVID-19. This phase may be further segmented by age if needed, depending on how much vaccine is available.

Vaccine Clinic Schedule

COVID Vaccine is currently available for all school-related workers, healthcare workers, people born in and prior to 1956. Beginning March 5th, additional people are eligible to be vaccinated including agricultural workers, manufacturing, grocers, and people with two chronic conditions. People with chronic conditions can be any age from 18 years old and up.

Vaccine clinics are being provided weekly at the health department on Wednesdays and Fridays. Vaccine clinics are also available at the Kit Carson County Memorial Hospital on Thursdays.

Appointments are required for all vaccine sites.

Please sign up for your shot on line at <https://novelhealth.ai/practice/kit-carson-county-dept.-of-public-health-and-environment-301981> or call 719 346-7158, ext. 342.

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