April 5, 2020

4:00 p.m. Update Pueblo, CO #PuebloCOVID19

Public health officials from the Pueblo Department of Public Health and Environment announced today one additional positive COVID-19 cases for Pueblo County. The additional case is a 34-year-old female.

Pueblo County now has a total of 44 confirmed positive cases among Pueblo County residents. Seven additional positive cases are from individuals residing in other counties (one from Alamosa, one from Crowley County, one from Huerfano County, one from Douglas County, one from Fremont County, one from Rio Grande, one from Custer County). There have been 413 tests administered in Pueblo County. There have been 343* negative results with 16 tests results still pending, and three tests unable to be read and determined unsatisfactory. To date, two Pueblo County residents have passed away.

*(Negative test results reflect only those reported by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and do not include those negatives results from tests administered through private labs).

Pueblo County’s 44 COVID-19 Confirmed Cases

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<th>Gender</th>
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<td>63</td>
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<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
male 76
male 79
male 80 (passed away)
female 19
female 20
female 26
female 34
female 34
female 36
female 37
female 41
female 44
female 47
female 48
female 52
female 53
female 55
female 58
female 63
female 65
female 67
female 68
female 71
female 73
female 75
female 76
female 77
female 80
female 81 (passed away)
female 82

Guidelines to be tested for COVID-19

To be tested for COVID-19, individuals, including EMS personnel, must show symptoms of COVID-19. People with the following symptoms may be referred by a medical doctor to be tested in Pueblo for COVID-19: fever (usually 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher), shortness of breath (difficulty breathing) and cough. Testing does not occur when a person does not show these symptoms.

Public Health understands how individuals are concerned they may have been exposed or believe they have been exposed to COVID-19; however Public Health request those who are concerned stay home and self-quarantine and monitor for symptoms. If symptoms begin to show, people are instructed to call their primary care doctor. Those showing COVID-19 symptoms: fever (usually 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher), shortness of breath (difficulty breathing) and cough and do not have a primary care doctor may currently drive to Colorado Springs for testing, as that testing site does not require a physician’s referral to be tested.
The Colorado Springs FEMA-sponsored COVID-19 testing site is currently providing testing for health care workers and first responders and expanded to provide testing for individuals over 65 years who have symptoms of COVID-19 (fever, cough, shortness of breath).

Beginning Sunday, April 5, 2020, the site is open from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. The following people showing symptoms are accepted to get tested at this location:

- Health care workers
- First responders
- Individuals who are over 65 years and are experiencing symptoms

See below for more details on testing:

- The site is located at 175 S. Union Blvd. in the back-parking lot.
- Individuals only need to bring a picture ID and insurance information if they have it.
- Qualified individuals will be tested, regardless of insurance status.
- There is no cost for the testing, and no need to have a doctor’s prescription to receive testing.
- This is a drive-through site and you will not be getting out of your car.
- Please do not bring pets or others in your vehicle that will not be getting tested.

District 70 Schools to Remain Closed for the Year

D70 schools will remain closed for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year. Pueblo District 70 Superintendent Ed Smith decided in the best interest of the students and staff, D70 schools will remain closed for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year.

D70 looks forward to returning to school in August to welcome students, staff and families safely back into the buildings. District officials are making plans for end of year activities, including options for high school graduation, and will have further announcements as those plans are finalized.

Remote Learning began in some D70 schools this week and will be implemented District wide on April 6, 2020. For the latest updated information visit www.district70.org.

Beware of Law Enforcement Impersonators Stopping Drivers Due to Stay-at-Home Order

Local law enforcement officers are NOT conducting stops of individuals in response to the Governor’s Stay-at-Home order. Officers are still conducting stops for moving violations or traffic infractions and with that stop, they may inquire about the Stay-at-Home order. There have been reports in other counties of impersonators stopping people and doing checkpoints. Drivers should be aware and protect themselves from these impersonators. If you get stopped, make sure the vehicle has proper markings of police, sheriff or State Patrol. If you have doubts about who is stopping you, call 911 and ask the dispatcher to ask the law officer to provide proper identification. There is no mandate for individuals to carry an official letter stating they are an essential employee.
Local Mental Health Resources
Mental Health Resources are available in Pueblo, contact your mental health care provider. Services are also available through Health Solutions at 719-545-2746. Health Solutions recently added information on self-care activities to help during periods of stress on its website at www.health.solutions.

Governor Polis Encourages Residents to Vote in Upcoming Municipal Elections
Governor Jared Polis encourages residents in communities with municipal elections scheduled on April 7, to participate in the elections. In an effort to preserve the right to vote in a free and fair election, the Governor has issued guidance to ensure people can vote safely. The guidance includes: encouraging absentee methods of voting, where possible; follow social distance guidelines; encourage early voting and voting during off-peak hours; drive-up voting or ballot drop off; consulting guidance provide by the Colorado Municipal League and local health agencies on how to safely conduct elections. Read the full guidance here.

Pueblo WIC Open, Accepting New Appointments
Pueblo Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) is open. Appointments can be made by telephone by calling (719) 583-4392.

Colorado Center on Law and Policy Offers Resources
Housing and rental payments here
COVID-19 Resources for Immigrants (Spanish and English) here

Security Tips For Websites and Email While at Home
Cybersecurity experts warn the public to be vigilant during this worldwide pandemic as more people are teleworking from home. Individuals are reminded to be on the lookout for scams related to COVID-19 and to be aware of emails with malicious attachment or links to fraudulent websites. Organizations/businesses allowing people to telework should adopt a heightened state of cybersecurity particularly if using a virtual private network (VPN) due to more vulnerabilities found and organizations being less likely to keep them updated with the latest security updates. For more on cybersecurity go to cisa.gov.

Help Protect Pueblo from COVID-19
Everybody has a responsibility to protect the Pueblo community and our most vulnerable in Pueblo by:

- Minimize social activities and being physically close to other people.
- Isolate yourself if you feel symptoms of shortness of breath, cough, temperature of 100.4 or higher call your medical provider before visiting them.
- **Do not go to the emergency room unless medically necessary.**
- Wash your hands with soap regularly.
- Cough or sneeze into elbow or tissue.
• Stay home when you’re sick.
• Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth.
• Avoid close contact with sick people.
• Clean surfaces frequently touched.

Pueblo Department of Public Health and Environment encourages residents and media to seek out credible, reliable sources of information on COVID-19:

· www.puebloemergency.info
· Call CO HELP at 1-877-462-2911 or email COHELP@RMPDC.org
· Pueblo’s COVID-19 Hotline 719-583-4444

All public and media inquiries in Pueblo are answered through the local hotline at Pueblo’s Joint Information Center. Pueblo COVID-19 Hotline is answering questions 8AM – 5PM, Monday – Friday 719-583-4444.

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