



Pueblo County Sheriff's Office

Kirk M. Taylor Sheriff
J.R. Hall Undersheriff

Mark A. Mears
Bureau Chief
Emergency Services

David J. Lucero
Bureau Chief
Detention

Jeffrey S. Teschner
Bureau Chief
Law Enforcement

News Release

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Pueblo's #70+ COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic Rolls Smoothly into Day 2

What a difference a day makes! That was the clear to the workers, citizens, and emergency responders as Pueblo County rolled smoothly into 70+ Vaccination Clinic Day 2. While planners work to iron-out the small hiccups inevitable in any new process, the immediate shift, and the ability of the community to adjust made every difference to those who lined up for their vaccination today.

Pueblo Mayor Nick Gradisar said "I'm proud of the work done overnight by the Joint Emergency Operations Center and other personnel. In less than 24 hours, the team was able to address the issues we saw on Monday when demand outstripped the supply of the vaccine," said Mayor Nick Gradisar. "This is one of the largest mobilization efforts ever imagined in Pueblo so when problems arise, this proves we can solve quickly. However, I'm calling on our Federal Government to get more of the vaccine into Pueblo. We're ready to vaccinate more Puebloans but we need more doses."

In contrast to Monday, Pueblo's law enforcement officers patrolled the area overnight with registered seniors' names in-hand to keep the line exclusive to those that registered for the vaccination. An hour before the clinic opened, citizens showed ID's for entry as their names were verified and checked off. With added registration team members, the paperwork process was swift and effective. A well-staffed vaccination crew of health care workers administered 655 doses, and the clinic was closed by 2:00p.

It was busy off-site too. The Pueblo Department of Health and Environment was working diligently with the state to ensure there was an adequate number of doses to both vaccinate the second group of seniors and hold another clinic on Wednesday. At the Sheriff's Office, nearly a dozen call-takers worked non-stop, answering over 1200 phone calls all before noon. The Emergency Operations Center staff continued to focus on new case trends and first response agency needs and public information staff recorded calls ready to go out to the public once a Wednesday Clinic was confirmed.

"Our whole community is like this, that is why it works here in Pueblo," said Sheriff Kirk M. Taylor, "We take what we learn and apply it to make a difference, if you know how to fix something, why wait? There isn't anyone who would say this wasn't 100 times better than yesterday. And we are working on improving the process even more for those folks that move through the clinic tomorrow."

PDPHE Director Evetts echoed Sheriff Taylor's statement and is committed to doing everything he can to keep the vaccine coming to Pueblo, "We are ready to handle bigger numbers. At this point, half of our 23,000 seniors over age 70 have said they are ready to get their vaccination. As quickly as the doses arrive at our building, we are scheduling clinics to put them in people's arms, that is how we are going to get through this." Evetts said the biggest challenge now is the delivery system because every future clinic is dependent upon vaccine delivery. "I can tell you today, that there is enough vaccine for tomorrow, but Thursday and Friday are tentative, until we get additional doses to administer."

The Pueblo Unified COVID Vaccination Clinic at the Pueblo Mall will operate tomorrow from 9a-2p. Pre-registration is required, to add their name to the COVID notification list, Citizen's 70+ can visit pueblovaxnow.com or dial 719-583-4444 and press #1.

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