



Weekly Update: Pueblo's Mass Vaccination Clinic

February 8, 2021

Pueblo, CO - Pueblo County's COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic continued administering vaccine the first week of February, dispensing an additional 2,800 COVID-19 vaccines in just two days. Both first and second doses were administered to individuals age 70 and over, first responders, and medical professionals on Wednesday and Saturday of last week. Organizers were limited by vaccination deliveries from the state but made quick use of what was delivered on Tuesday.

Clinic workers were flooded with praise on both the process and their performance from citizens through-out the day. "Look at all these people," exclaimed Helen Jones, an 87-year-old who received her second dose of the Moderna vaccine on Saturday, "and I didn't even feel a thing!".

Randy Evetts, Director of Pueblo Department of Public Health and Environment says he regularly receives letters and e-mails thanking him for the well-organized, hassle-free clinic. "The credit belongs to the men and women working the clinic both on-scene and behind the scenes," says Evetts, "from the beginning, we have watched the operation and talked to our staff, both inside and outside the building, looking for opportunities to improve and make adjustments."

One of those improvements includes a radio station dedicated to those arriving at the clinic. While dialed into an FM frequency – one for English and one for Spanish, visitors hear over the radio what they can expect at the clinic, what circumstances might make them ineligible for the shot on that day, and any side-effects they might expect. Pueblo County Sheriff Kirk M. Taylor believes the messages ease anxiety. "We compiled the list of commonly asked questions and recorded an audio file. It answers the questions on the minds of people pulling into the clinic". Taylor said, "Knowing what you can expect is calming, this shot is all the sudden not just happening to you, you have information and that is powerful."

Another improvement to the process is the availability of the COVID-19 Vaccination registration form on-line. Scheduled individuals can visit www.pueblohealth.org/vaccine and scroll to the bottom of the page for the "Colorado COVID-19 Vaccine Administration and Screening Form" or simply click on the link sent to their cell phone to print the necessary form, saving time for both those in line and staff working the event. Director Evetts says, "We are seeing pre-filled registration forms more and more. On days when we see more completed forms, we also see shorter wait times, and smaller lines as the day progresses."

Plans for the week of February 8 include more than 5,000 second doses for the individuals age 70 and older who received their first doses in early January as well as the first of coordinated clinics for education professionals and school staff in Pueblo County. First dose clinics for individuals age 65 and older are expected later in the month, registration is open now. Anyone age 65 and older wanting to receive a vaccination at the clinic can visit www.pueblovaxnow.com or call 719-583-4444 option 1, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday – Friday.

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