



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COLORADO VACCINE DISTRIBUTION MOVES INTO PHASE 1B.3 AS NORTHEAST COLORADO HEALTH DEPARTMENT KICKS OFF WITH A TWO DAY VACCINATION CLINIC AT CARGILL PROTEIN

Sterling, Colo. – March 10, 2021: On March 5, 2021 with the guidance of Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment, the Northeast Colorado Health Department (NCHD) began vaccinating Coloradan’s in Phase 1B.3 of the COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution plan. This includes people age 60 and older, people 16-59 with two or more high-risk conditions and frontline essential workers in grocery and agriculture. The intent of this classification is to prioritize current grocery and agriculture workers who cannot maintain physical distance from others at their place of employment, who work in close contact with many people, especially indoors, and in places with poor ventilation including meatpacking workers; grocery store workers; and agricultural processing workers. To mark that occasion, NCHD hosted an on-site COVID-19 vaccination clinic, also known as a Point of Dispensing, or POD, at Cargill Protein in Fort Morgan, on Friday and Saturday, March 5 and 6.

“Knowing how hard hit the Cargill community was last spring with COVID illness and death, it was a relief to be able to bring vaccinations to this essential and vulnerable population,” Trish McClain NCHD Public Health Director.

Over 90 NCHD staff and volunteers worked a combined total of 1,159 personnel hours in the two days vaccinations were offered to Cargill employees working the three shifts between 4:00 am to 10:00 pm. Two thirds of this staffing was made up of community volunteers from both Morgan and Logan counties. Nursing volunteers from five organizations provided vaccination and medical supervision to over 900 Cargill employees. With over 25 different languages spoken, the translation and interpretation support provided by volunteers was outstanding and greatly appreciated. NCHD would like to acknowledge and thank the organizations who made this enormous endeavor possible: Marathon Health, One Morgan County, Morgan County Ambulance Service, Morgan Community College - Nursing Program, Northeastern Junior College - Nursing Program, Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment, Colorado Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management and Teamsters Local 455 of Fort Morgan.

“With the opening of Phase 1B.3, this is just the beginning,” assured, Trish McClain NCHD Public Health Director, “Our six-county health district employs a lot of agriculture and grocery workers and we are committed to offering vaccine to everyone who wants it, through our existing clinics, PODs, and partnering with our regional healthcare providers who have done a phenomenal job in getting vaccine out into the communities.”

NCHD’s six county health district includes Logan, Morgan, Phillips, Sedgwick, Washington and Yuma Counties. If you are the decision maker or owner of a grocery or agriculture facility located in one of these counties and would like to offer employee vaccinations, please visit <https://www.nchd.org/covid-19-vaccine>, click on the “Agriculture and Grocery POD Inquiry Form” button. Fill out and submit the pop-up form

and an NCHD COVID-19 Response Coordinator will be in contact to discuss employee vaccination options.

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