FEMA Supporting and Expanding Equitable Access to Home-based Persons in Pueblo

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DENVER – In keeping with the foundation of FEMA's mission to help people, the federal vaccination site in Pueblo is continuing to expand vaccine availability to socially vulnerable population in the Pueblo area. In a collaborative effort between FEMA and the Pueblo Department of Public Health and Environment (PDPHE), vaccination teams will now be reaching those who are home-based and unable to access vaccination locations. This effort is in addition to the main vaccination site at the Colorado State Fairgrounds, and temporary pop-up locations that have been conducted throughout the area. Home-based vaccinations, which began on May 5, are intended to increase vaccination opportunities and help ensure equitable vaccine access to residents of Pueblo and surrounding communities.

This collaboration is expanding a program that began with PDPHE. The program is now supporting three medical teams, with each team able to vaccinate eight to 10 home-based persons each day. Members of the teams are volunteers with the American Pharmacists Association and Sewa International. This collaborative effort is expected to last for six weeks.

"This pilot site is all about equitable access," said Nancy Dragani, acting Regional Administrator. "Individuals should still be able to access the vaccine, despite being unable to leave their residence to get to a vaccination site. It is our privilege to partner with the Pueblo Department of Public Health and Environment to make the vaccine available to all who want it, even if it means taking it to individuals in their homes."

Teams are currently working with a known list of home-based individuals. Those needing similar access should call 2-1-1 or 719-583-4444. For those able to leave their homes, the site at the Colorado State Fairgrounds is open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., seven days a week. Appointments are available for the main site at www.centura.org/vaccine. Additionally, popup clinics are available throughout the

area and appointments can be scheduled at www.primarybio.com/r/centurapopup. Walkups without a scheduled appointment are accepted at these sites.

The main site at the Colorado State Fairgrounds is the only federal pilot site in the State of Colorado and FEMA Region 8. The partnership with the State of Colorado and Centura Health includes an Army medical team and other support units from the Department of Defense.