

RESOLUTION 2021-51

SUPPORTING COVID-19 VACCINATION INITIATIVES IN AN EFFORT TO ACHIEVE A VACCINATION LEVEL OF AT LEAST 70%

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020 Governor Mark Gordon declared a State of Emergency and Public Health Emergency in the State of Wyoming in response to the worldwide pandemic; and,

WHEREAS, Governor Gordon's Declaration of a State of Emergency and Public Health Emergency direct the Wyoming Department of Health to take all appropriate and necessary actions; and,

WHEREAS, the Wyoming Department of Health issued public health orders providing guidance and restrictions related to childcare facilities, k-12 schools, colleges, universities, and trade schools, as well as large gatherings; and,

WHEREAS, at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, scientists estimated a threshold of 69.5% was needed to reach community immunity, which was based on mathematical models and relied heavily on the transmission rate. A higher threshold will be required as the pandemic evolves, and more transmissible variants develop. Community behaviors also impact the threshold (i.e. wearing masks, socially distancing, etc.). Population density, environment and other factors impact that percentage as well; and,

WHEREAS, States with low vaccination rates have the highest transmission rates. As of July 6, 2021, 31.8% of Wyoming's population is fully vaccinated. Wyoming ranks 48th with only Arkansas, Mississippi and Alabama having lower vaccination rates. Currently, 43.4% of Albany County's population is fully vaccinated; and,

WHEREAS, The Alpha variant (B.1.1.7), the predominant variant in Wyoming is 50% more transmissible than the original virus and causes more severe illness and death. The Delta variant (B.1.617.2), also found in Albany County, is 55% more transmissible than the Alpha variant and may possibly cause more severe illness and death; and,

WHEREAS, currently available vaccines are protective against the original virus and developed variants, leaving the unvaccinated at most risk. With increased community immunity an infectious disease is less likely to spread. There are people in the community who are unable to be vaccinated or unable to develop a good immune response to the vaccine. With community immunity reducing spread of the virus, a vulnerable person is protected by default. As rates of vaccinations go up, there can be an increase in indirect or community effects. Cases will start to ebb overall, but there will be some ups and downs.

NOW THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF LARAMIE WYOMING, RESOLVES:

SECTION 1. That foregoing recitals are incorporated in and made part of this resolution by this reference.

SECTION 2. That the City Council supports the proposed initiatives of Albany County Public Health and the City of Laramie to achieve a vaccination rate of at least 70%.

PASSED AND APPROVED on this, the 20th day of July 2021.

Paul Weaver, Mayor and President
Laramie City Council

ATTEST

Nancy Bartholomew,
City Clerk