RESOLUTION NO.: 12
SUBJECT: In support of voluntary COVID-19 vaccinations

EFFECTIVE DATE: December 15, 2021

RESOLUTION OF THE EL PASO COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH IN SUPPORT OF VOLUNTARY COVID-19 VACCINATIONS

WHEREAS: El Paso County Public Health (“Public Health”) recorded 114,937 COVID-19 cases in El Paso County between March 1, 2020 – December 6, 2021; and,

WHEREAS: Public Health has also recorded more than 5,909 hospitalizations and 1,274 deaths in El Paso County due to COVID-19 during the same time period; and,

WHEREAS: As of December 6, 2021, 459,700 vaccine-eligible El Paso County residents (68.7 percent) have been vaccinated (with at least one dose); and,

WHEREAS: In November 2021, unvaccinated or not fully vaccinated individuals made up approximately 80 percent of COVID-19 hospitalizations in El Paso County, resulting in strained local hospital capacity, and limits on regional resources for surgery and other medical procedures; and,

WHEREAS: Data and analysis from sources regularly relied upon by medical professionals in El Paso County and Colorado find the newer variants of COVID-19 to be more transmissible than the original virus; and,

WHEREAS: Widespread vaccination is a critical tool to help stop the COVID-19 pandemic; and,

WHEREAS: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends everyone 5 years and older get a COVID-19 vaccination to help protect against COVID-19; and,

WHEREAS: COVID-19 vaccination helps reduce the risk of severe illness, including hospitalization and death, and can also help protect people around them; and,

WHEREAS: The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) reported that authorized COVID-19 vaccines have and continue to undergo the most intensive safety monitoring in United States history; and,

WHEREAS: The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) also reports that authorized COVID-19 vaccines were evaluated in thousands of participants in clinical trials. The vaccines met the FDA’s rigorous scientific standards for safety, effectiveness, and manufacturing quality needed to support approval or authorization of a vaccine; and,

WHEREAS: Clinical trials for authorized COVID-19 vaccine included a more diverse group of subjects than previous trials for other drugs and vaccines; and,
WHEREAS: Public Health offers COVID-19 vaccines and COVID-19 boosters to eligible persons free of charge, reducing barriers such as technology, geography, language, and transportation and expanding easy access; and,

WHEREAS: Colder weather means more time indoors where more people may congregate in close proximity and ventilation may be poorer, which may increase the risk of contracting and spreading COVID-19, with a higher risk for unvaccinated or not fully vaccinated individuals; and,

WHEREAS: The El Paso County Board of Health encourages citizens to thoughtfully consider a range of COVID-19 prevention strategies that align with their personal medical situation (including previous infection) and religious beliefs. This can include handwashing, social distancing, staying home when sick, and consulting their personal physician to make informed decisions about receiving the vaccine.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE EL PASO COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH:

That the Board of Health hereby finds the COVID-19 vaccines are a critical prevention strategy to protect the health and well-being of El Paso County communities and to reduce the risk of severe illness, hospitalization, and death from COVID-19.

MOVED, SECONDED AND ADOPTED BY THE EL PASO COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH AT ITS REGULAR MEETING HELD DECEMBER 15, 2021.

Signed for the EL PASO COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH BY:

ATTEST: ________________ President

ATTEST: ________________ Secretary

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iv Food and Drug Administration. Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee Meeting Briefing Document, October 26, 2021. [https://www.fda.gov/media/153409/download](https://www.fda.gov/media/153409/download).