



# San Juan County Utah Daily Information Report

Coronavirus (COVID-19)  
April 1, 2020

Stay Safe. Stay Home. Save Lives.

San Juan County residents the next two weeks are critical to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. We need everyone to help and do their part even if that means staying at home.

Please practice Social Distancing as best as you can. The longer we delay social distancing the longer we are stuck practicing social distancing.

San Juan County Community Partners want to be very clear on the subject of travel to our county: If you are thinking of traveling to San Juan at this time. Please stay home. Please follow the President's advice and our Governor's advice. Avoid unnecessary travel right now. Avoid leisure travel right now. Let's all wait this out together, and we encourage you to come visit us when this is over. For visitors *who are already* in the area, please refer to: [www.utahscanyoncountry.com/covid19-travel](http://www.utahscanyoncountry.com/covid19-travel) or call 1-800-574-4386

**Public Health:** As of today 4/1/2020, San Juan County remains with a total of 5 residents who have tested positive for COVID-19 with one of them staying in the Salt Lake Valley and the remaining four who are near the southern most region of the county near the Utah/Arizona border (Navajo Nation). Let us all continue to do our very best to engage in social distancing and to self-isolate if we are sick.

We urge the public to continue practicing social distancing:

- Do not gather in groups of more than 10 people.
- In accordance with San Juan County Public Health Order 2020-03-27, non-resident visitors, not engaged in essential travel, have been ordered to depart immediately.
- If you are sick, STAY HOME.
- Wash your hands frequently and avoid touching your face.
- Cover your cough.
- Disinfect surfaces often.
- All nonessential travel is discouraged.

Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, San Juan Public Health is not allowing anyone into the office until further notice. If you have any questions or concerns pertaining to Vital Records or WIC please call us at 435-359-0038. We will try our best to help you while social distancing. Thank you for understanding!

### Clinics:

**UNHS:** Currently UNHS is conducting its 'Parking Lot Triage' system. Our intent is to screen patients outside of the facility who are experiencing; coughing, shortness of breath, or have a fever. UNHS recommends the following guidelines when visiting our clinics. These follow CDC and Department of Health guidance.

If you suspect you have the coronavirus (cough, high fever, trouble breathing AND a potential history of exposure), please call and notify us in advance so we can take precautions and possibly triage, check you in, and treat you without you entering the facility. In the next few days, we will begin virtual iPad check-in and virtual conversations with doctors

for suspected cases. You'll then be able to use the Pharmacy drive-thru. The intent is to have the entire visit done from your car or outside the clinic.

If you are sick, please do not accompany a healthy patient for your visit, and do not enter the facility except to seek care for yourself or someone you are responsible for. Please avoid our facilities if you are healthy, including the Market Cafe in Montezuma Creek. There will be no visitors allowed to patients who have confirmed or possibly have COVID-19. Wear a mask if you have a cough. Do not wear a mask if you feel healthy. Please wash your hands or use alcohol sanitizer before and after leaving a patient room, exam room, and the facility. UNHS (and all facilities) have a very limited number of tests. Your provider will determine whether or not a test is appropriate based on symptoms and travel history.

These guidelines are being put in place for the safety of you, our patients, caregivers, and community. Elderly are especially vulnerable. Teach them the latest information on social distancing and prevention. Here is a public service announcement explaining Covid-19, it's symptoms, and prevention in Navajo, have your grandparents listen to it.

#### **Hospitals:**

**San Juan Health:** San Juan Health is encouraging our patients to consider telehealth clinical visits using HIPAA compliant Microsoft Teams application when appropriate; please call to discuss this option and support the CDC's guidelines on social distancing. SJH has implemented a restricted visitor policy, as of Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup>. Dietary services to the general public have been halted until further notice. SJH has implemented an Emergency Department triage protocol to establish safe workflows and to mitigate the spread of any potential COVID-19 cases. San Juan Health's (SJH) Infection Control and Medical Staff will continue to closely monitor the ongoing Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) outbreak and implement new protocols in a timely manner.

**Blue Mountain Hospital:** Blue Mountain Hospital has no confirmed cases of COVID-19. BMH personnel are prepared for the possibility of receiving COVID-19 patients. BMH has implemented a restricted visitor policy and has stopped serving food to the public until further notice. A screening process has been implemented for the ER which keeps patients and staff safe. We are working with UNHS and are receiving the patients they have screened as needed. BMH is monitoring and adhering to CDC guidelines. Staff and patient safety continue to be the top priority. BMH will continue to monitor the situation as more information becomes available and take action as appropriate. Our employees are being screened daily as part of our efforts to keep our staff safe. 0 Confirmed cases.

**EMS:** During this time you will see EMS respond with an increase of respiratory protecting masks or other protective gear to ensure your safety as well as the safety of the EMT's Please do not be alarmed by this. The EMS department will continue to follow all recommendations of the Utah Department of Health, San Juan County Health Department and the CDC to ensure the safety of the people who rely on our EMS Services. To help follow the guidelines of social distancing we will be cancelling all CPR classes and will not be scheduling classes until we feel it is safe to do so. Please note that if San Juan EMS gets overwhelmed with multiple calls our response times may be slower than normal.

**Law Enforcement:** The San Juan County Sheriff's Office is concerned and working on two fronts in dealing with Covid-19. The first front is the effort to keep jail staff and inmates healthy. This includes our very important dispatchers. The San Juan County Jail has suspended all visitations to the jail; all volunteers have also had their visits to the jail terminated. The jail has a plan to have an area available for quarantine if needed. The county jail has a backup plan to feed the inmates if we lose jail cooks to quarantine. We have tele-health capabilities set up and working so that inmates can see a medical doctor without leaving the facility for initial doctor visits. The corrections officers have access to protective equipment.

The second front is the law enforcement and public safety efforts. The patrol deputies are responding to law enforcement incidents. They have safety equipment if needed. We have currently cancelled trainings, except for the cadets we have in POST academy classes and we have encouraged deputies to follow all safety guidelines.

We are not doing fingerprinting for the public at this time at the sheriff's office.

**County:** San Juan County Department of Motor Vehicles will be closed to the general public on 3/25/2020. At this time all registrations, Impounds, and DUI's will be done by appointment only. Appointments will be done with the person that scheduled the appointment. We ask for 1 person per appointment to protect everyone involved. To schedule an appointment please call 435-587-3221. If you are sick or have symptoms of COVID-19 please do not schedule an appointment at this time.

If you need to do Vehicle Registration we highly recommend utilizing online capabilities [secure.utah.gov](https://secure.utah.gov) or by mail.

San Juan County Libraries remain closed at this time.

We have implemented a **Notice to Visitors** due to recent public health concerns; it is recommended that visitors are able to answer "no" to all of the questions below before visiting our offices. Have you, or someone living in your household, someone you have been in close or frequent contact with, or someone you are caring for been diagnosed with COVID-19 (Coronavirus) or had any contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19? In the last 14 days, have you or someone living in your household, or someone you have been in close or frequent contact with, or someone you are caring for returned from, or made a travel connection through a CDC Level 3 or Level 2 country or State Department Level 3 or Level 4 country? Do you currently have or have you had within the last 24 hours, any cold or flu symptoms with a fever greater than 100.4 or acute respiratory distress (e.g., shortness of breath and coughing.)

#### **Economic Development: Economic Development:**

**Regular Updates:** <https://www.utahscanyoncountry.com/covid-19>

- San Juan Business Funding Resources: <https://bit.ly/2xAznfA>
  - This resource includes information on federal, state, and local funding options for businesses. Such as: SBA EIDL, SBA Loan Advance, SBA 7a PPP, SEUALG RLF, and GOED's Bridge Loan.

#### **Visitor Services:**

**Regular Updates:** <https://www.utahscanyoncountry.com/covid19-travel>

- As of 4/1/20 Hovenweep National Monument and Natural Bridges National Monument will be closed until further notice.

#### **Cities:**

**Blanding:** Currently, the Blanding Visitor Center, and Wellness Center are closed temporarily due to COVID-19. The Justice Court is open. The City Office is open the lobby is closed they are asking citizens to do what they can online or call into the office. City utilities are fully operational and we anticipate service delivery continuing uninterrupted. We will follow CDC and local and state health department recommendations in considering any future actions.

**Bluff:** Overnight, short term rentals (hotels, motels, campgrounds, AirBnB, VRBOs, RV parks) have been suspended. No restaurants are open. The K and C remains open with shopping and groceries. The town is working with the Bureau of Land Management to decrease and regulate the camping both at Sand Island and Butler Wash.

**Monticello:** The Monticello City Office is staffed but we are asking residents to use the drop box for payments and not to come into the building. The doors will remain locked and phone numbers will be posted on the door to allow residents to talk to city staff and conduct necessary business. City utilities are fully operational, and we

anticipate service delivery continuing uninterrupted. The Welcome Center and Hideout Community Center are closed until further notice. The Golf opening scheduled for Monday, April 6 is under review and may be delayed. We continue to carefully monitor the situation and to follow all guidelines as issued by the CDC and State and County Departments of Health. It is our sincere desire that everyone takes all precautions and works together to assure their and everyone's health and safety.

**School District:** As many of you are aware, Governor Gary Herbert announced on March 23<sup>rd</sup> that all Utah public schools will extend their closures until May 1. San Juan School District has been, and will continue to comply with the Governor's Office, Utah State Board of Education (USB) Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the Utah Department of Health, as we navigate evolving COVID-19 safety precautions.

As always, our priority is the safety of our students and staff. District & School Administration are working continuously to see that the needs of the students are met. Distance learning will continue through the extended dismissal. Food Services will still be providing grab and go meals via pickup locations or delivery (Bus Routes). We will continue to closely monitor all developments and take appropriate action.

**San Juan County Aging Department:**

To go meals are still in place for the congregate meal and home delivered meals are still being delivered at this time. Clark's Market and Blue Mountain Foods have extended a special shopping hour every day for the seniors it is 7-8 am, San Juan Pharmacy and The Main Street Drug and Boutique are offering curbside pickup and free delivery in town for seniors. If you are a home bound senior and you are in need of groceries please contact your local senior center for assistance. La Sal 435-686-9990, Monticello 435-259-2656, Blanding 435-459-3179, Bluff 435-672-2390

**Forest Service Information**

Most of our campgrounds are still covered in snow but those that are not we are keeping closed to avoid congregating groups of people. Both Devils Canyon and Nizhoni Campgrounds are now accessible and we have closed them with gates and/or barriers and signs, with information on the closures.

Most of our trailheads and single toilets are also inaccessible due to snow, those that are accessible we have signed saying they are not regularly maintained and included information on reducing risks (i.e. hand washing, and social distancing). We may end up closing/locking these facilities but they are open for now as they do not congregate people like a developed campground does.

We have been advising the public that dispersed camping is prohibited (except to residents and essential visitors) on the Moab/Monticello Ranger District.