



# San Juan County Utah Daily Information Report

Coronavirus (COVID-19)  
April 16, 2020

Stay Safe. Stay Home. Save Lives.

--PRESS RELEASE--

San Juan Public Health Loosens COVID-19 Health Order. San Juan County, UT – The San Juan Public Health Board of Health met today to discuss the continuance of the Public Health Order of March 27, 2020 that, among other things, placed restrictions on recreation in San Juan County. At that meeting, following the recommendation of the Public Health Director, Kirk Bengé, the Health Board approved the extension of the Public Health Order with significant changes.

The changes include a loosening of restrictions on visitation for essential travelers. The new order loosens restrictions on travel to the county for those who are full time RVers as well as those who can do so without violating a state or local travel restriction in their home jurisdiction. Other changes include the loosening of restrictions for many face to face visits with family and friends. Notably, the new ordinance does not incorporate all of the points issued in Governor Herbert's 'Stay Home Stay Safe' directive, notably it does not limit children from playing on playground equipment and it does not require that masks be worn in public places. All changes are still subject to the State Department of Health

Order placing restrictions on social distancing and maximum group size requirements.

Bengé stressed that all of his decisions have been driven by the data that changes almost daily and that he has been very mindful of the economic situation for those living in San Juan County. "Public health has the primary goal to prevent unnecessary deaths, not to keep every individual from getting sick," Bengé stated. He also stressed that the previous order had been placed in an effort to allow the Health Department to assess the situation and gather additional data. Now, having had several weeks to gather additional data, it was agreed that from now until May 1, the order could be relaxed in order to assess the local situation better and then act accordingly moving forward.

Bengé also stated that he had requested that the State Department of Health give additional local control over dining establishments to allow a case by case allowance of some dine-in services. However, that permission had not been granted as of the meeting today. The updated orders are reflective of the State Department of Health orders, as required by state law, and largely reflect the declaration of Governor Herbert. However, based on the local circumstances and data, not all of the specific directives from the Governor were included in the Health Order today. "It is important that San Juan County Public Health Orders are based on the facts, data, and modeling for San Juan County, not the Wasatch Front or the East Coast," Bengé stated.

During the meeting, the board also discussed the need for counties to have the flexibility to be more or less strict than the State, depending on the local circumstances. Some board members expressed concern that the legislature began a special session to consider modification of existing authority in the midst of a pandemic. However, today's modifications are based on sound public health principles and not in response to the political process.

San Juan Public Health stressed the importance of following your local health orders as well as continuation of good hygiene, appropriate social distancing, and staying home unless it is for essential travel as stated in the current order.

--END--

**Until further notice the County Administration Building and Public Safety Building will be locked to the public and by appointment only for all offices. County personnel will still be available to assist the public but you must call and make an appointment first. Please use the following numbers to contact the department you are looking for**

**Assessor's office, Building Department or DMV – 435-587-3221**

**Administration, Aging, Commission, Emergency Management, EMS, Fire, Public Lands, and Personnel – 435-587-3225**

**Clerk's Office and Information Technology – 435-587-3223**  
**USU Extension – 435-587-3239**  
**Recorder's Office – 435-587-3228**  
**Surveyor – 435-587-3234**  
**Economic Development / Visitors Services – 435-587-3235**  
**Treasurer – 435-587-3237**  
**Sheriff's Office – 435-587-2237**  
**SJC Attorney – 435-587-2128**  
**Justice Court – 435-587-2544**  
**7<sup>th</sup> District Court 435-587-2122**

Be aware of people trying to take advantage of the crisis we are in. There have been reports in other counties of people impersonating local public health departments calling random people and telling them they have been exposed to the virus.

Also at this time the rumor about students needing to repeat the entire school year is just that a rumor.

**Public Health:** For updated case counts please visit: <https://coronavirus.utah.gov/case-counts/> Known infected communities are: Montezuma Creek/Aneth area, Monument Valley/Oljato area, and the Navajo Mountain area. As the number of affected communities in the county change, we will issue updates to address those changes, but we will not be issuing updates on individual cases.

The mobile test site continues to do testing in the Monument Valley area today and tomorrow.

The State announced further relaxing on testing. Given that we will only be able to monitor trends by testing data, the State wants all providers to test as much as possible. They encourage all providers to test anyone with even one symptom. Anyone with a fever should be tested. Anyone with body aches should be tested. Anyone with a cough should be tested, etc. Also, as long as providers fill out the test request form to accompany the sample, there is no longer a need to walk through the complete guidance. Also, providers should ensure they show up on <https://coronavirus.utah.gov/utah-covid-19-testing-locations/>. They will want to make sure that if someone clicks on their location, the instructions are correct.

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 not received or treated any confirmed COVID-19 patients. BMH personnel are prepared for the possibility of receiving COVID-19 patients. They have implemented a restricted visitor policy and have stopped serving food to the public until further notice. A screening process has been implemented for the Emergency Room to keep patients and staff safe. BMH is working in conjunction with UNHS to screen and treat patients. They are monitoring and adhering to CDC guidelines. Staff and patient safety continue to be the top priority. They have implemented a screening process for staff, patients, and visitors who enter the building. This is to keep those who are potentially ill with COVID-19 from entering the building and spreading the illness to others. Those entering the parking lot on the north end of the building will be asked several screening questions and have their temperature taken. From there, they either enter the building through the north entrance, enter through the ER for emergencies, or they may be asked to go across the street to the UNHS screening area to continue the screening process if necessary. BMH will continue to disseminate information as it becomes available.

**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.

The lobby of the Public Safety Building is locked and closed to the public. If you need assistance from the Sheriff's Office, Justice Court, 7<sup>th</sup> District Court or San Juan County Attorney please use the numbers listed at the beginning of this

document to schedule an appointment.

**County:** The San Juan County Administration building is closed to the public. You can schedule an appointment with the office you need by calling the numbers listed at the beginning of this document.

-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.

### **Economic Development & Businesses**

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

- **USDA's** compilation of resources. For businesses, agricultural producers & ranches please see page 2. Community developers please see page 3: <https://bit.ly/3el7A3t>
- **SBA 7a PPP**
  - **Wells Fargo** you will need to have had a WF Business Checking Account since 2/15/20. Apply here: <https://bit.ly/3c0AfzQ>
  - **Zions Bank** is continuing to accept applications. Apply here: <https://bit.ly/2xerlJw>
  - For a list of lenders who **do not require a previous relationship** see this list: <https://bit.ly/2UO0NrF>
- For a list of **SJC Business funding resources** please see: <https://bit.ly/2xAznfA>
- Sign up for our daily email: <http://bit.ly/2WtNzBE>

### **Visitor Services**

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

1-800-574-4386

- State Parks remain open to the residents of the county in which the park is located. For San Juan County Residents that includes Goosenecks State Park and Edge of the Cedars State Park. For hours of operation, please visit the State Parks website. <https://stateparks.utah.gov/>
- New Glen Canyon NRA closures and updates (as of 4/6) for details please visit: <https://www.nps.gov/glca/planyourvisit/conditions.htm>
- Canyonlands National Park, Hovenweep National Monument, and Natural Bridges National Monument remain closed. For details please visit: <https://www.nps.gov/index.htm>

### **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:** Bluff's closure of non-essential business continues. Both the laundromat and K&C remain open for business.

**Monticello:** The Monticello City Office staff continues to be available to assist citizens. Residents are encouraged to use the drop box for payments or to enroll in auto bill pay through Xpress Bill Pay or with your financial institution. Office doors remain locked and phone numbers are 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 Hideout Golf Course will also remain closed until the San Juan Health Department rescinds its order to keep non-essential services closed. The City continues to follow all guidelines as issued by the CDC and State and County Departments of Health and to monitor our practices to assure we protect the public to the extent possible. The City expresses its sincere appreciation to all health care workers and other officials who are working diligently to assure our 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 (USBE) 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 435-2459-2656, 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.