



San Juan County Utah Weekly Information Report

Coronavirus (COVID-19)
August 5, 2020

Stay Safe. Stay Home. Save Lives.

Join the San Juan Strong Promise - San Juan Public Health and San Juan County Economic Development has rolled out the San Juan Strong Promise in an effort to help businesses navigate business operations during COVID-19. This includes a toolkit of resources including printables for communities, customers and employees, employee education, certificate, and more. To join the promise and view the resources visit: www.UtahsCanyonCountry.com/SanJuanStrong

Medical providers are being encouraged to test more people as often as possible. If you are displaying any symptoms e.g. Fever, Cough, Shortness of Breath, Muscle Aches and Pains, Decreased Sense of Smell or Taste, Sore Throat, - Get tested! To find a testing site near you please visit <https://coronavirus.utah.gov/utah-covid-19-testing-locations/>

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.

Public Health: Physical and social distancing remains a high priority and is still the best tool we currently have to slow the spread of the virus. Throughout all communities, most of the virus spread is being driven by close personal and household contact, primarily within extended family groups.

There has been an outbreak in cases of COVID-19 at the Four Corners Regional Care Center in Blanding. Health care and public health personnel are working closely with the State Department of Health and the Care Center in efforts to prevent further spread.

We are currently monitoring active infections in the following communities: Blanding, Monticello, Bluff, Mexican Hat, Montezuma Creek, Aneth, and Oljato.

As we continue moving forward during these difficult times, please remember that your actions can protect you and those around you by limiting the spread of the virus. Stay home if you're sick. Practice good hand hygiene. Maintain physical distancing (6 feet) as often as possible. Wear a mask if social distancing is not possible.

We want to remind all that while Utah has moved to lesser restrictions for the general population, high-risk or vulnerable individuals, including those 65 and older and those of any age who are immunocompromised with chronic conditions like serious heart disease, respiratory issues or even obesity, kidney disease or pregnancy should continue to follow stricter health protocols, even while the rest of the state is following relaxed health orders. We encourage all to make every effort to help protect these individuals and keep them safe.

We continue to expect and prepare for additional cases of COVID-19 in our community. Official data for San Juan County and all of Utah is available at: <https://coronavirus.utah.gov/case-counts/>

** Please see last page for a graph depicting a comparison between COVID-19 cases reported to San Juan Public Health and the date of self-reported symptom onset. **

Clinics:

UNHS: UNHS continues its reopening as it works towards full operation and hours. UNHS is vigilant of the Navajo Nation curfew and strives to make sure its patients and personnel can make that curfew.

Hospitals:

San Juan Health: 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 as appropriate. We have re-designed our hospital patient flow which includes an isolated COVID-19 wing where suspected and know COVID-19 patients will be treated; this includes negative pressure rooms. The guidelines established by the Utah Department of Health, CDC, and other various agencies are being followed to protect both our staff as well as our patients. All service lines (Emergency Department, Elective and Emergent Surgeries, Clinical Services, Radiology, Laboratory, etc.) are operational with protective measures established. We ask all patients, where possible, to wear a protective mask for all services. For those that desire, San Juan Health has the ability to conduct telehealth clinical visits when appropriate and face-to-face interaction is sufficient for your healthcare needs

Blue Mountain Hospital: Visitors to Blue Mountain Hospital can still enter the parking lot through the northern entrance, as before. Hospital staff is no longer screening individuals outside the main entrance on the north side of the building. Instead, visitors are being screened at the main desk as they enter the hospital through the north entrance. Dialysis patients are screened by Dialysis staff. We are still requiring visitors to wash their hands and wear a mask as they enter the building, and maintain social distancing of six feet from other individuals as much as possible.

Visitors are reminded that the hospital's dining area is still off limits to all but hospital staff. The Bistro is now open for take out orders only. Also, there is a limit of one visitor per day, including labor/delivery patients. Blue Mountain Hospital appreciates your cooperation and understanding as we navigate through this challenging time.

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.

The lobby of the Public Safety Building is now open to the public. If you have any questions or concerns before visiting the building you can call any of the offices at the following numbers. **Sheriff's Office – 435-587-2237 SJC Attorney – 435-587-2128 Justice Court – 435-587-2544 7th District Court 435-587-2122**

The Sheriff's Office is resuming processing fingerprints for the public. All persons seeking to be fingerprinted MUST wear a mask. NO masks will be provided by the Sheriff's Office. You MUST provide your own mask.

County: The San Juan County Administration building reopened to the public on Monday June 1, 2020. Members of the public with concerns can still call in and schedule an appointment with the office you need by calling the numbers listed below.

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

-If you need to do Vehicle Registration we still recommend utilizing online capabilities by going to secure.utah.gov or by mail.

Economic Development & Businesses:

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

San Juan County Business Opening Updates: <http://bit.ly/33tdCKl>

COVID-19 Business manual: <https://bit.ly/38jPeO3>

San Juan County CARES Grant:

San Juan County will be partnering with Monticello, Blanding, and Bluff to roll out a grant program **opening August 17th** to assist San Juan County businesses. This grant will be awarded on a first come first serve basis as businesses qualify and complete their application.

\$250,000 was received through the CARES act to mitigate losses for small businesses in San Juan County. Funding will range from \$1,000 to \$10,000 per business. The awarded grant amount will be determined by COVID-19 impact, previous CARES funding, and the number of employees.

August 12th, a grant open house will be hosted by Blanding City in the Blanding City Offices from 5-7PM. Masks required, if you do not have one, one will be provided at the door.

Further information will be forthcoming in our office's newsletter. Please subscribe here: <http://bit.ly/2WtNzBE> select "2020 COVID-19"

State CARES to support small businesses:

More information on state grants: <https://business.utah.gov/coronavirus/>

Regional funding:

- Southeastern Utah Association of Local Governments (SEUALG), has expanded the revolving loan fund to support businesses impacted by COVID-19.
 - Loans from \$10,000.00 to \$150,000
 - Waived Private Leverage for the First 24 Months
 - Fixed Interest Rates as Low as 2.47% at Today's Prime Rate
 - Repayment Periods from 3-10 Years Depending on Funding Use
 - CONTACT: Camille Otto for more information and an application, 435-613-0031, cotto@seualg.utah.gov

Visitor Services

For travel updates please visit: <https://www.utahscanyoncountry.com/covid19-travel> or call 1-800-574-4386

We encourage all businesses, city offices, community services, visitor centers, and etc to sign up for the San Juan Strong Promise to provide consumer confidence as we work to re-invite visitors into our local economy. To join the promise, please visit: <https://www.utahscanyoncountry.com/sanjuanstrong>

Blanding: The Blanding City Office lobby is now open with plexiglass partitions to help limit spread and transmission. We are still encouraging anyone who can to interact with the City online, by email, or by phone. The Wellness Center is open with some restrictions and protective measures in place. The pool and visitors center will open to the public on June 1, 2020 with restrictions. Please listen to and follow the directions given by staff and informational signs. The 4th of July celebration will not take place this year. This was not an easy decision, but in consideration of the health and safety of the citizens of San Juan County we felt it the most appropriate decision for this time.

Bluff: Bluff businesses have slowly reopened with a focus on public safety. The Bluff Community Center and Fire Mesa Kitchen remain closed to public use. The Bluff Food Pantry continues to operate from the Bluff Community Center by "request" and it continues to serve many families in the greater Bluff community. The Bluff Town Council is holding all meetings and hearings electronically; the Bluff Service Area is holding all meetings and hearings outside in the Bluff Community Center Pavilion.**Monticello:** At this time, the City is planning on sponsoring a limited celebration for Pioneer Days on July 24 and 25. The City will continue to monitor the status of COVID to determine what the celebration will consist of. The Swimming Pool will remain closed for the season, but the following City services are OPEN and available to the public so long as social distancing and other CDC and local health department guidance is followed:

1. Monticello City Offices - Residents are still encouraged to use the drop box for payments or to enroll in auto bill pay through Xpress Bill Pay or with your financial institution.
2. Welcome Center – number of individuals allowed in the building will be monitored and controlled.
3. Hideout Community Center
4. Hideout Golf Course
5. Airport

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: 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. 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

USU Blanding: USU Blanding will be holding on-campus classes this fall semester. On campus housing will be open. As well as our Monticello, Montezuma Creek, and Monument Valley centers. To limit the spread of COVID-19 USU Blanding will be implementing mitigation protocols. Face coverings will be required in class. Additionally, students, faculty, and staff will be asked to wear a face covering while in campus buildings when social distancing cannot be maintained. A set of residence hall isolation rooms will be set aside for any of our students living on campus who show symptoms. There will continue to be some limitations such as limited usage of USU Blanding facilities by non-USU individuals and/or entities. We will also be following all Health Department COVID-19 protocols in our dining area.

COVID-19 Cases Reported to San Juan Public Health Compared to Date of Reported Symptom Onset*

*Symptom onset date is self-reported at time of case interview, ≈50% of cases reported a date of symptom onset

