

Michael Nielson, DO  
Medical Director

Brittney Carlson, RN  
Nursing Director

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Director

Rick Meyer, BS  
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Katie Knight, RN  
WIC Director

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## DECLARATION OF LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY

### PUBLIC HEALTH ORDER

Whereas, UCA §26A-1-101 grants the Health Department jurisdiction in all unincorporated and incorporated areas of the county and San Juan County Health Regulation § 1 - 4.4 provides that the County Health Officer may invoke temporary regulations in an emergency;

WHEREAS, on January 21, 2020, the Utah Department of Health activated its Department Operations Center in response to the evolving global outbreak of the novel coronavirus;

WHEREAS, the Utah Department of Health recognizes COVID-19 as a threat to the health and safety of the residents of Utah;

WHEREAS, these partners have also worked to identify, contact, and test individuals in the State of Utah who have been potentially exposed to COVID-19 in coordination with the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC);

WHEREAS, proactively implementing mitigation measures to slow the spread of the virus is in the best interests of the State of Utah and its citizens;

WHEREAS, COVID-19, a respiratory disease that can result in serious illness or death, is caused by the SARS-Co V-2 virus, which is a new strain of coronavirus that had not been previously identified in humans and is easily transmissible from person to person;

WHEREAS, the CDC identifies the potential public health threat posed by COVID-19 both globally and in the United States as "high" and has advised that person-to-person transmission of COVID-19 will continue to occur globally, including within the United States;

WHEREAS, on January 31, 2020, the United States Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar declared a public health emergency for COVID-19, beginning on January 27, 2020;

WHEREAS, on March 6, 2020 Governor Gary Herbert issued a The Declaration of State Emergency for the State of Utah;

WHEREAS, as of March 12, 2020 the CDC indicates there are over 125,000 confirmed cases of COVID-19 worldwide, with over 1,200 of those cases in the United States, including 36 deaths in the united states;

WHEREAS, on February 28, 2020, the State Emergency Operations Center raised its activation level to Level 3- Elevated Action and the Utah Division of Emergency Management and Department of Health activated a Joint Information System for public information;

WHEREAS, San Juan County lacks jurisdiction to enforce involuntary quarantines on Tribal Lands and will require State, Federal, and Tribal cooperation to provide such necessary services to county citizens on Tribal Lands;

WHEREAS, San Juan County hospitals and clinics are limited to five (5) isolations rooms to treat severe or serious cases in the event of sustained community transmission of COVID-19 in San Juan County, Utah;



WHEREAS, the circumstances of a local COVID-19 outbreak may exceed the capacity of the services, personnel, equipment, supplies and facilities of San Juan County, and require the combined forces of a mutual aid region or regions to combat;

WHEREAS, preliminary evidence suggests that communities that are taking decisive actions are seeing significant reductions in morbidity and mortality compared to nations and communities that have delayed implementation of proven public health intervention strategies;

THEREFORE, PURSUANT TO UCA §26A-1-114, BE IT DECLARED BY KIRK W. BENGE, SAN JUAN COUNTY HEALTH OFFICER, AS FOLLOWS:

**Section 1. Declaration of Local Public Health Emergency.** It is hereby declared that there is a local public health emergency affecting San Juan County, Utah, which exceeds the resources of the community, and assistance is requested from both the State of Utah and the federal government to provide all necessary resources to combat such emergency to protect the residents of San Juan County and provide emergency assistance.

**Section 2. Public Advisories.** The following measures are strongly recommended:

- No mass gatherings over one hundred (100) people should be held.
- Those individuals who are age sixty (60) or older, or who are immunocompromised, should not attend mass gatherings of over twenty (20) people.
- Access to long-term care facilities should be limited to close family relatives and facility staff; Persons seeking access to long-term care facilities should be screened for symptoms consistent with COVID-19 viral infections prior to access.
- Where appropriate, employers should encourage their employees to work remotely from home.
- Where employees are sick, employers should encourage them to stay at home.
- Extra-curricular public and private school activities should be cancelled.
- Public and private schools should prepare for the possibility of closure.


Due to the evolving situation with the potential spread of the COVID-19 virus, these recommendations will be continuously reviewed and updated. Where, in the opinion of the San Juan County Health Officer, it is warranted, these recommendations may become mandatory.

**Section 3. Duration.** This declaration of a local public health emergency shall expire thirty (30) days after the Effective Date (defined below) unless ratified in written form by the San Juan County Board of Health.


**Section 4. Publication.** This declaration of a local public health emergency shall be on file for public inspection with the San Juan County Health Department.

**Section 5. Notice to Governor.** A copy of this declaration of a local public health emergency shall be sent to the Office of the Governor of the State of Utah.

Effective Date: 3.13.2020

  
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Kirk W. Bengé  
Health Officer

Approved as to Form:

  
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Kendall G. Laws  
County Attorney