

Michael Nielson, DO
Medical Director

Brittney Carlson, RN
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Kirk W. Bengé, MPH
Director

Rick Meyer, BS
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WIC Director

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 §4.4.1 provides that the County Health Officer may invoke temporary regulations in an emergency;

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020 Health Officer Kirk Bengé proclaimed a Public Health Emergency in San Juan County, Utah;

WHEREAS, on March 27, 2020 San Juan County announced a presumptive positive case of COVID-19 within the County;

WHEREAS, on March 26, 2020 the Utah Department of Health reported 402 cases in Utah, including one death;

WHEREAS, as of March 26, 2020 the CDC indicates there are over 68,000 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the United States, including 994 deaths;

WHEREAS, On March 11, the COVID-19 outbreak was characterized as a global pandemic by the World Health Organization

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, on March 25, 2020, the Navajo Department of Health reported 69 confirmed cases within the Navajo Nation;

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 and San Juan County Health Regulation 1 §4.4.1, BE IT DECLARED BY KIRK W. BENGE, SAN JUAN COUNTY HEALTH OFFICER, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. General Prohibitions. Effective immediately, the following prohibitions shall apply throughout San Juan County:

- Gatherings of more than ten individuals are prohibited.
 - Prohibitions on group gatherings shall also apply to camping and other outdoor activities. Recreational Vehicles, Camp Trailers, Tents etc., shall maintain a minimum distance of 100 feet between family

groups in dispersed camping areas or maintain one camp per designated space in designated campgrounds or RV parks.

- This prohibition is not intended to discourage outdoor activities as families or in groups of less than ten people. In fact there are known benefits to outdoor exercise and San Juan Public Health encourages such activities so long as they are done responsibly and in accordance with current social distancing recommendations.
- All individuals shall abstain from leisure travel, unless otherwise allowed under this order.

Section 2. Prohibition of all dine-in food service. Dine-in food service is prohibited, whether inside or outside the establishment, and admitting members, guests, patrons, and customers inside the establishment except to pick up food for take-out is prohibited.

- Curbside take-out, drive-thru food service or pickup service is permitted. Cash payments are strongly discouraged. Staff who accept payment shall use cleansing measures between each transaction, including using any best practices issued by the State Department of Health or the San Juan County Health Department. Where possible, online (e.g., Venmo, Squarecash, Google Pay, Applepay, and similar payment apps) and telephonic credit card transactions are encouraged. Staff who handle cash or credit card payments shall not be involved in the preparation, handling, or delivery of food.
- Management must ensure on a daily basis that any employee who presents symptoms of illness (e.g., cough, fever, shortness of breath) shall not be permitted to work.

Due to the evolving situation with the potential spread of COVID-19 virus, violations of these operational restrictions shall result in the immediate closure of individual businesses and establishments to all business activity.

Section 3. All Individuals. Effective immediately.

- All individuals shall practice good social distancing.
- All individuals shall refrain from visiting nursing care facilities, assisted living facilities, jails or prisons, and retirement homes except to provide critical assistance.
- All individuals shall avoid discretionary travel, shopping trips (other than shopping for food and other essentials), and social visits. This includes unnecessary “pop runs”, “cigarette runs”, etc.
- Individuals over the age of 60 and individuals who are immunocompromised should avoid contact with other individuals.

Section 4. General Protocols for Businesses. Effective immediately, all establishments shall comply with the following regulations:

- Implement social distancing (six feet) measures in all areas, especially communal areas of the establishment.
- Where feasible, employers should encourage their employees to work remotely from home.
- Employers should encourage employees who are sick to stay at home.
- Staff who have to take cash or credit cards shall use cleansing measures, including best practices that may be issued by the San Juan County Health Department, between transactions. Cash transactions are strongly discouraged.
- Management must ensure on a daily basis that no employee that presents symptoms of illness (e.g., cough, fever, shortness of breath) will be permitted to work.
- Members, guests, patrons, or customers who present symptoms of illness shall be excluded from the establishment.

Section 5. Long-Term Care and Other Care Facilities. Effective immediately, all care facilities shall comply with the following regulations:

- Access to long-term care facilities shall be governed by the guidance issued by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Center for Clinical Standards and Quality.

Section 6. Exceptions. The prohibition of gatherings of more than ten individuals does not apply to grocery stores. Grocery stores are encouraged to remain open to provide necessary food items and other goods.


Section 7. Duration. This Order shall remain in effect through April 20, 2020, unless further extended

Section 8. Publication. This Order shall be on file for public inspection with the San Juan County Health Department.

Effective Date: 3-27-2020



Kirk W. Bengé
Health Officer

Approved as to Form: 

Kendall G. Laws
County Attorney