



# Kane County Sheriff's Office

***Sheriff Tracy Glover***

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2/19/2021

In recent days when posting the daily case counts, the Southwest Utah Public Health Department has posted some larger than usual numbers for Kane County. We realize this has caused some concern to our citizens and felt it appropriate to provide some explanation for those numbers in an attempt to relieve some of the community's concerns.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, the Kane County Sheriff's Office has worked alongside our medical community to keep our inmates and staff safe from COVID. The Jail instituted safety protocols and greatly limited access to the facility. We quarantined every new inmate arriving at the facility per CDC guidelines and have been successful in keeping COVID-19 out of the facility for over a year. Because of our strict policies, we have been able to identify staff exposures quickly and isolate those employees away from the jail.

The Kane County Jail was one of the last facilities in the state to remain COVID free. However, despite our rigid safety protocols, on February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021 we had our first COVID-19 positive test within the inmate population. Since many of the 176 inmates live in a dorm style section, as anticipated, the virus spread quickly. As of this date, the Kane County Jail inmate population accounts for 51 of the new COVID-19 positive cases reported in Kane County. The vast majority of our inmate population who have tested positive are either asymptomatic or are presenting with mild symptoms. We are testing our entire facility on a regular basis to quickly identify positive cases and tend to their needs. We have a full-time nurse on our staff and all our corrections officers are trained and available to monitor and care for those who have tested positive while keeping themselves and their families safe, and not allow the cases to impact the community.

The health department is showing that Kane County has 75 active cases as of February 19<sup>th</sup> which would indicate that there are only about 20 active cases in Kane County outside of the jail facility.

We anticipate there will be more positive cases in the coming days. We have sufficient staff and resources to continue to care for all the inmates and anticipate a full recovery of all those affected.

Alan Alldredge  
Kane County Emergency Services