

# Kane County COVID Task Force Call Updates

## December 31, 2020

### **In attendance:**

Alan Alldredge, Kane County Emergency Services  
Tracy Glover, Kane County Sheriff  
Rob VanDyke, Kane County Attorney  
Andy Gant, Wade Heaton, Kane County Commission  
Rhonda Gant, Kane County HR Director  
Camille Johnson Taylor, Kane County Office of Tourism Director  
Dr. David Blodgett, Southwest Regional Health Department Director  
Stuart Willoughby, Kane County Ambulance  
Jessie Staples, Alton Town  
Nick Hoyt, Kane County Correctional Facility  
Robert Houston, Joe Decker, Kanab City  
Robert Caruso, Orderville Town  
Scott Alvord, Utah Division of Emergency Management  
Bart Battista, Best Friends Animal Society  
Pat Horning, Big Water Fire Chief  
Craig Hansen, Kane County Senior Citizen Center  
Devin Reed, Kane County IT Director  
Pat Guerrero, Kanab Chamber of Commerce  
Whit Bunting, BLM

### **Alan Alldredge:**

Welcomed everyone to the meeting and briefly discussed Kane County's current status. Kane County is currently at 144 active cases which is 12 higher than 2 weeks ago. We have had more than 12 new cases, but we have also had several cases considered recovered that reduce our numbers. We have had one additional death in the county for a total of 2 deaths. In the next few days, we should begin to see if we are going to have a spike from the Christmas holiday. The health department has started giving vaccinations in Southwest Utah, to include Kane County. Right now, the shots are for healthcare workers and non-hospital healthcare workers. There is a signup page on the health department's website. The 2 local pharmacies are working together to be prepared when vaccines are available so they can help with administration to the general population.

### **Dr. Blodgett:**

The state is watching some events to see how they will affect the case counts. The Christmas holiday should start to affect the numbers this weekend if there is to be an increase, with New Years and school openings showing up in 7-10 days. Changes in school requirements will help to keep kids in the classroom instead of sitting at home. Students with mask-on-mask exposure will not be quarantined anymore. The health Department began vaccinations of hospital staff this week with weekly vaccination clinics planned in the upcoming weeks. The guidelines as to who is eligible for vaccination and the portal to sign up are available on the health department website. Up next is School personnel, followed by first responders and then into the elderly populations. So far only about 50 percent of the eligible recipients have chosen to receive the vaccine. Southwest is currently using the Moderna vaccine which requires a second shot about

30 days after the first. It is important to follow through and get both. COVID treatments have gotten much better and the doctors and healthcare facilities have gotten good at treating COVID patients. Hospitalizations are at about 2 percent where they used to be at 15 percent. Still too many cases out there and too many deaths so people still need to stay diligent and follow safety protocols to try and help reduce cases. The state death rate has typically been around .4 percent, but if you factor in that there are 3-5 unidentified cases for every positive case, the death rate will end up being somewhere in the .2 percent range.

**Rob VanDyke:**

Reviewed the current orders that are in place and noted there are not a lot of changes since the last meeting. Some of the changes deal with masks in schools.

**Mayors and City Officials:**

All are doing their best to keep their cities operational and employees safe. All hoping for a better year in 2021. Bigwater officials asked about bringing vaccinations to the outlying communities to help those who are unable to travel to Kanab to get the shots.

**Camille Taylor:**

Discussed the upcoming New Years Eve activity and the safety measures that will be in place for the event. There will be limited capacity with COVID precautions. Not sure how many will show up. Last year's event only had about 130 people. Balloon festival is still scheduled for 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend in February. There will be fewer balloons this year as some of the pilots are older and not attending events yet.

**Follow up Notes:**

The state's vaccination plan can be seen on the state's coronavirus website, [coronavirus.utah.gov](https://coronavirus.utah.gov). For timely information updates for our region, check Southwest Public Health's website at [swuhealth.org](https://swuhealth.org).

**Next COVID-19 Task Force call will be January 14<sup>th</sup>.**