

Kane County COVID Task Force Call Updates

February 11, 2021

In attendance:

Alan Alldredge, Kane County Emergency Services
Andy Gant, Brent Chamberlain, Wade Heaton, Kane County Commission
Rob VanDyke, Kane County Attorney
Tracy Glover, Nick Hoyt, Megan Ramsay, Kane County Sheriff's Office, jail & Dispatch
Rhonda Gant, Kane County HR Director
Camille Johnson Taylor, Kane County Office of Tourism Director
Dr. David Blodgett, Southwest Regional Health Department Director
Sherrie Pandya, Brit Baer, Stuart Willoughby, Kane County Hospital & EMS
Robert Houston, Joe Decker, Tom Cram, Kanab City
Robert Caruso, Orderville Town
Jessie Staples, Alton Town
Pat Horning, Big Water Fire Chief
Kimlee Purvis, Fredonia Town
Ben Dalton, Kane County School Superintendent
Scott Alvord, Utah Division of Emergency Management
Christy Smith, Kane County Senior Citizen Center
Devin Reed, Kane County IT Director
Pat Guerrero, Kanab Chamber of Commerce
Whit Bunting, BLM
Mark Fisher, Kane County Water Conservancy District
Monica Croteau, South Central Communications
Kasey Ramsay, Workforce Services
Bart Battista, Best Friends
Lauren Willie, American Red Cross

Alan Alldredge:

Welcomed everyone to the meeting and reviewed current state and County information. We reviewed the information on The Southwest Utah Health Department website and the states website. On SWUPHD website, you can access information about current cases and vaccination efforts. Kane County in conjunction with the health department was allowed to take over the vaccination appointment scheduling for the month of February. Starting the last week of January, phone lines were set up and between Kane County employees and volunteers, we were able to fill all the appointments for the month of February. The phone line has remained active and we have continued to provide support and make changes as requested by local residents. Starting on Monday February 22, we are going to revert back to the health department's website and encourage residents to go there to start making their appointments for March. The 435-644-4994 phone number will stay active and we will continue to provide support for those needing assistance with the sign-up process. Starting March 1st, the age for signup with drop to 65 years of age and also include multiple other medical conditions that will be eligible for vaccinations for anyone over the age of 18. For a list of those conditions, visit the state's website at coronavirus.utah.gov. The state is currently in an incident decline status. Hospitalizations are down, but deaths are remaining too high and continue to affect the senior population the most.

Dr. Blodgett:

Johnson and Johnson has applied for their “Emergency Use Authorization” from the FDA and we expect their doses to start being delivered in the first part of March. The health department will continue to receive the Moderna Vaccine through February in similar amounts to what they are now receiving. They are currently receiving about 2500 doses per week for the five counties in our region that then must be divided out based on population. Kane County has been receiving 100 doses a week for first shots and an increasing number each week for second shots. The J&J vaccine will start being delivered to pharmacies, hospitals, and clinics in early March. The exciting part of the J&J vaccine is that it is a one-shot dose. We are at about 8-9% of the population that has been vaccinated. If you have had COVID wait for 90 days to get a vaccination.

Sheriff Glover:

Kane County Correctional Facility has seen a few positive cases in the last couple of weeks. The staff has worked hard to keep COVID out of the facility for over a year but now have some cases. They continue to be diligent and are hopeful the virus has been isolated to only a couple of sections and will continue to care for those involved and fight to keep the spread down. So far, all cases have been mild, and the inmates are recovering fine.

Rob VanDyke:

Regulations are still the same as they have been. There are the school rules, Labor Commission rules requiring employees to wear masks and the public health order dealing with signage, mask, social distancing, and public events.

County Commissioners, Mayors and City Officials:

All are doing their best to keep their cities operational and employees safe. Commissioners expressed gratitude for the efforts of the Sheriff’s Office and Health Department for taking over the vaccination sign-up process for the month of February.

Sherrie Pandya:

Testing requests have dropped to about half of what they were doing at the first of the year. They are still performing several tests a day and dealing with COVID cases as well as the usual non-COVID hospitalizations.

Ben Dalton:

Schools are open and buses are running. Extracurricular activities are limited to 4 tickets per participant or up to 25% capacity. Athletic testing will most likely continue through the rest of the school year. Testing is available for any student or staff who would like to be tested.

Whit Bunting:

Federal buildings are being run at 25% capacity. Employees are being asked to rotate schedules and work from home.

Camille Taylor:

Balloon festival is scheduled for February 19,20,21. Some of the events that normally would have been indoors with groups have been changed or cancelled to maintain the safety of the pilots and sponsors. The street fair will take place on Friday and Saturday. There will still be bands performing Friday & Saturday as well. They are working with the health department to update the “Above and Beyond” program to help maintain the safety of county residents and visitors.

Rhonda Gant:

There are two essential part time job openings right now dealing with the senior center. They are in need of a cook at the Orderville location and a Care and Share operator in Kanab. These are important positions right now with services needed by the senior citizens and those who need assistance with food. Contac Rhonda Gant if you have any interest in these positions.

Follow up Notes:

For up-to-date information from the state, check their website at coronavirus.utah.gov. For timely information updates for our region, check Southwest Public Health's website at swuhealth.org.

Next COVID-19 Task Force call will be February 25th.