

Kane County COVID Task Force Call Updates

January 14, 2021

In attendance:

Alan Alldredge, Kane County Emergency Services
Rob VanDyke, Kane County Attorney
Brent Chamberlain, 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
Sherrie Pandya, Stuart Willoughby, Kane County Hospital
Robert Houston, Joe Decker, Tom Cram, Kanab City
Robert Caruso, Orderville Town
Jessie Staples, Alton Town
Kimlee Purvis, Fredonia Town
Ben Dalton, Kane County School Superintendent
Nick Hoyt, Megan Ramsay, Kane County Jail and Dispatch Center
Scott Alvord, Utah Division of Emergency Management
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
Harry Barber, BLM
Mark Fisher, Kane County Water Conservancy District
Monica Croteau, South Central Communications

Alan Alldredge:

Welcomed everyone to the meeting and briefly discussed Kane County's current status. Kane County is currently at 149 active cases which is 5 higher than 2 weeks ago. We have had more than 5 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 3 deaths. The state has seen a spike from the holidays and is now headed back into a decline. Case numbers are going down, but hospitalizations are still staying high. The health department continues its weekly vaccinations. Those over 70 will be added to the approved list starting on the 18th. There will be free drive through testing clinics on January 14th and 21st in the Kanab Center parking lot from 2-4pm.

Dr. Blodgett:

The Health Department's website has struggled to keep up with the demand and has been down for a few days. The vaccine appointments in Kane County are all full for January 20th. The health department is looking at some other options to schedule vaccines, especially now that it will be open to the over 70 population because many of those are not skilled on the computer and the online signup process will be difficult for them. That elderly population represents about 45-50 thousand persons and our 5-county region currently gets about 1200 vaccines a week so it will take some time to meet that need. Kane County has around 2000 persons in the over 70 age group and we only get about 100 shots per week. Our region uses every shot every week and there are no doses sitting on shelves. There has been about 40% of persons in the eligible groups

that have chosen to get the vaccine. Those who have received a first dose will start coming due for a second dose in a couple of weeks. It is important to get both. There is still a lot of disease out there and we are seeing an average of 2 deaths in our region each day. Everyone needs to stay diligent and follow established protocols to keep themselves safe.

Rob VanDyke:

Orders that are in effect are still in effect until 21st.

County Commissioners, Mayors and City Officials:

All are doing their best to keep their cities operational and employees safe. Bigwater officials asked about bringing vaccinations and testing to the outlying communities to help those who are unable to travel to Kanab to get those services.

Sherrie Pandya:

The hospital is busy with both COVID and non-COVID cases. They are seeing a couple COVID cases each day. They have only seen a few cases of normal flu this season. Feels that the social distancing and mask wearing is helping to keep the season flu cases lower than normal.

Ben Dalton:

Currently 3 active cases district wide. Several students are quarantined from at home exposures. Students who have mask to mask exposures no longer have to quarantine and can stay in school. The schools can do testing to help students come back earlier and are testing athletes on the required schedules. Working to get teachers and staff vaccinated. For occupancy in gyms at activities, each athlete gets 4 tickets for their family for a maximum of 25% capacity.

Camille Taylor:

Balloon festival is scheduled for 3rd weekend in February. 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. There will still be bands performing this year, but it will not be a competition this time to allow more room for spectators to spread out. New Years Eve social was slow and a smaller group.

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 January 28th.