

Kane County COVID Task Force Call Updates

March 11, 2021

In attendance:

Alan Alldredge, Kane County Emergency Services
Andy Gant, Brent Chamberlain, Wade Heaton, Kane County Commission
Tracy Glover, Nick Hoyt, Megan Ramsay, Kane County Sheriff's Office, jail & Dispatch
Rhonda Gant, Kane County HR Director
Dr. David Blodgett, Southwest Regional Health Department Director
Sherrie Pandya, Kane County Hospital
Robert Houston, Joe Decker, Tom Cram, Kanab City
Robert Caruso, Orderville Town
Kimlee Purvis, Fredonia Town
Jamie Little, Kane County School District
Scott Alvord, Utah Division of Emergency Management
Jerica Bauer, Kane County Senior Citizen Center
Devin Reed, Kane County IT Director
Pat Guerrero, Kanab Chamber of Commerce
Roger Williams, Kane County Water Conservancy District
Bart Battista, Best Friends
Kasey Ramsay, Workforce Services
Monica Croteau, South Central Communications
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 state's website. The health department shows Kane County currently having 116 active cases. The jail has over 100 current cases so that leaves the county with less than 20 active cases. The cases in the jail continue to be asymptomatic or mild symptoms only. The first cases in the jail are now considered recovered and starting to drop off the active case count numbers. Kane County has continued to keep our vaccination phone line active and taking calls to help those who need help signing up for a vaccination. We are currently using the health department's online system. Those who can use a computer are encouraged to keep trying to get their own appointment and we are taking names of those who do not have computers or internet and will help to get them an appointment. All appointments are full through March 17th at this point. Appointments for the 24th will open on March 15th. The eligible age has dropped to 50. Looking like the mask mandates will be relaxed on April 10th. Some of the bigger counties were lowered to the Moderate transmission category which allows sporting events and theatres to open with side-by-side seating as long as everyone is wearing masks.

Dr. Blodgett:

Discussed the transmission index and how it is calculated. It is harder on the small counties because the numbers are calculated on per one hundred thousand basis. In a county like Kane County, each case equates out to about 16 in 100,000, so relatively low cases keeps us in the high transmission category. The Johnson and Johnson vaccines are out, and some will be offered in Kane County over the next couple of weeks. Most of the J&J shots will be going into the pharmacies. Over 30,000 vaccinated in our region now. Seeing vaccine slots not filled plus a lot of no shows for already scheduled appointments.

County Commissioners, Mayors and City Officials:

The county commissioners petitioned the state health department to not include the numbers of state inmates in the county's numbers as far as determining our placement on the transmission index because they are not out in the community. County inmates and corrections officers will still be included in the county's numbers. The state agreed to the request and we hope to see Kane County drop from the high category this next week. The cities and towns are anxious to get back to some form of normal. Fredonia held a drive through clinic Last week. Vaccinated several hundred people. Summer softball will happen this summer in Fredonia.

Sherrie Pandya:

Things still going okay at the hospital. Still a steady trickle of COVID patients coming into the hospital. ER is picking up with accidents and Spring traffic.

Jamie Little:

Kids in the school district are doing good. Still testing athletes with only an occasional positive test.

Other participants had had no additional updates.

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 March 25th.