

# Kane County COVID Task Force Call Updates

## May 6, 2021

### **In attendance:**

Alan Alldredge, Kane County Emergency Services  
Brent Chamberlain, Wade Heaton, Kane County Commission  
Megan Ramsay, Kane County Dispatch  
Rob VanDyke, Kane County Attorney  
Rhonda Gant, Kane County HR Director  
Dr. David Blodgett, Southwest Utah Public Health Department  
Robert Houston, Joe Decker, Tom Cram, Kanab City  
Robert Caruso, Orderville Town  
Jessie Staples, Alton Town  
Kimlee Purvis, Fredonia Mayor  
Janette Peatross, Kane County Office of Tourism  
Ben Dalton, Kane County School District  
Pat Guerrero, Kanab Chamber of Commerce  
Scott Alvord, Utah Division of Emergency Management  
Jerica Bauer, Kane County Senior Citizen Center  
Devin Reed, Kane County IT Director  
Mark Fisher, Kane County Water Conservancy District  
Monica Croteau, South Central Communications  
Whit Bunting, Bureau of Land Management

### **Alan Alldredge:**

Welcomed everyone to the meeting and reviewed the SWUPHD website. They are now tracking the state's transmission index. Kane County currently shows a 14-day case rate of 4 cases. The state met the three criteria outlined by the legislature that ended all state restrictions. The current public health order only pertains to masks in schools. No other orders are in place. The seven-day average for the state as of May 5<sup>th</sup> was 352 and continues to slowly decrease. The hospitalization is staying consistent in the 140-case range. Phone calls coming through the vaccination help line have mostly stopped. There are only a couple a day. Kane County's vaccination clinics are not filling up and there are lots of open time slots.

### **Dr. Blodgett:**

There is a major drop off in demand statewide and nationwide for vaccinations. In our region it is very dramatic where in some cases only 25 out of 4000 available slots are being filled. In Kane County we are at about 45-50 percent of the adult population that is vaccinated. Over 85 percent of those over age 70 have been vaccinated. There are only 8 people in our whole district in the hospital for COVID. Its sad that people are ending up sick, in the hospital, and dying when there are good vaccines available. Pfizer has applied to have their vaccine available for those down to the age of 12. There are variants out there, but the current vaccines are showing to be effective at stopping them or at least minimizing their affects. The school age children are a very low percentage of the cases.

### **Rob VanDyke:**

The termination of the state's orders does not prohibit cities and counties from enacting their own restrictions and we may continue to see some of that for a while.

**Sheriff's Office:**

The jail currently has no cases of COVID in the facility. We have started allowing groups back in for classes and religious services.

**Ben Dalton:**

Schools are the only population still required to wear masks. In the original bill, schools would have been excluded like everyone else, but it was removed because the governor would veto the bill. Kane County Schools currently has a mask waiver form to opt out of wearing masks. You just have to state there is a medical reason for not wearing the mask, but do not have to state what the condition is. About 34 percent of the students and staff have filed the exemption forms and are not required to wear masks. The schools are still testing for extra curricular activities. There has not been a positive case in over 5 weeks. The mask exemptions have not caused an increase in cases and the students are safe. Graduation and end of the year activities will be in person this year and looking forward to that.

**County Commissioners, Mayors and City Officials:**

The Commissioners are asking everyone to be respectful to those people and businesses who chose to continue to wear and require masks. Everyone needs to be able to make their own choice. The changes the commissioners have made were geared towards allowing everyone to use their agency.

**Janette Peatross:**

ATV Jamboree just finished and went well. Their office is busy.

**Jerica Bauer:**

Senior Center is getting ready to get opened back up. They continue to get the word out to seniors about availability of vaccines.

**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](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 is scheduled for June 3<sup>rd</sup>.**