

Kane County COVID Task Force Call Updates

November 19, 2020

In attendance:

Alan Alldredge, Kane County Emergency Services
Tracy Glover, Kane County Sheriff
Rob VanDyke, Kane County Attorney
Lamont Smith, Brent Chamberlain, Kane County Commissioners
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, Ambulance Services
Whit Bunting, BLM Kanab Field Office
Jessie Staples, Alton representative
Megan Ramsay, Kane County Dispatch
Tom Cram, Kanab City Police
Robert Houston, Kanab City Mayor
Robert Caruso, Orderville Town Mayor
Scott Alvord, Utah Division of Emergency Management
Bart Battista, Best Friends Animal Society
Kim Purvis, Fredonia Mayor
Pat Horning, Big Water Fire Chief
Ben Dalton- Superintendent, Kane County School District
Monica Croteau, South Central Communications
Craig Hansen, Kane County Senior Citizen Center
Devin Reed, Kane County IT Director
Mark Fisher, Water Conservancy District

Alan Alldredge:

Welcomed everyone to the meeting and briefly discussed Kane County's current status. We increased 9 cases from the day before and had double our numbers in the last week.

Dr. Blodgett:

Kane County like everywhere is seeing big increases in numbers. Governor Herbert will have a press conference today. Not sure what direction he might take. Could possibly extend the current order another two weeks to cover Thanksgiving and would extend school & recreation restrictions. Two different vaccines have shown great results from their stage 3 testing. Pfizer has started to ship their vaccine which will be stored in 5 hospitals in the state because it requires storage temperatures of -70 degrees, and they have the ability to store it. Hospital staff should start receiving vaccinations in December with nursing homes following up in January and on to first responders and high-risk groups by February into March. Hopefully by April the general population may start to receive vaccinations. New therapeutics are being used in hospitals and being very successful which is reducing the typical hospital stay from 30 days to 4-5 days. He reminded everyone that this is a disease that is spreading in close social contacts like family gatherings and activities where we are in close proximity to others for greater than 15 minutes. There continues to be higher risk for those over 65, or who have underlying conditions like heart disease, obesity, diabetes, etc. The hospitalization rate has reduced from 8% of the positive

cases to 2% because most of the cases are in the younger age group and do not need hospitalization. 90% of hospitalizations comes from 5% of the cases. Hospitals have also gotten better at determining who needs a hospital.

Rob VanDyke:

Discussed the legalities of the Governor's ongoing orders. There are varying opinions among the county attorneys throughout the state. The county employees have been asked to follow the guidelines of the current order. They are to wear masks when dealing with the public or if their offices do not provide sufficient distancing. Signs have been posted asking the public to wear masks when they enter county buildings. He discussed the rules put in place by the Labor Commission in regard to businesses.

Stuart Willoughby:

Ambulances are still busy with normal calls. Not seeing a lot of COVID related ambulance calls. There have been a few but not too many.

Mayors and City Officials:

All are doing their best to keep their cities operational and employees safe. Big Water stressed concern over the divide on social media between the groups for and against masks and the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday travel.

Senior Citizen Center

The Senior Center is closed as far as any seniors coming to the center. They are still doing home delivered meals and numbers are increasing. Kane Care and Share is currently well stocked, and locals have been good with donations.

Camille Taylor:

Discussed the upcoming light parade and Festival. Kanab City has a new tree that will be lit at the triangle and then the major activities will be outside at the Kanab Center where there is plenty of room to spread out and socially distance. All the food will be individually wrapped, and the lanterns will be launched from behind the Kanab Center. Signage will be in place asking everyone to social distance and follow proper guidelines. There will be no activities on Main Street. The Turkey Trot will take place at Jackson Flat Reservoir Thanksgiving Morning.

Whit Bunting:

BLM is gearing up to sell Christmas tree permits. Starting December 1st, the visitor Centers will close. It is not really COVID related, but more about staffing. Just the main BLM office will be open for any permits and business.

Ben Dalton:

The School District has expended all of their CARES Act money on supplies, testing and PPE. Kanab City has donated some of their money to the schools. Currently there are 4 active cases in the district and 7 that have recovered. 75 students are on quarantine from potential exposures. 5 staff members are on quarantine. Still no student to student transfer. The district updates these numbers on their website each day as they change for anyone who wants to see their status. Rural schools that are experiencing closures, it is not from outbreaks in the student body, but more of an issue of staffing, for example if the entire cafeteria staff or bus driver staff got sick or not enough substitute teachers.

Next COVID-19 Task Force call will be December 3rd.