

Kane County COVID Task Force Call Updates

October 15, 2020

In attendance:

Alan Alldredge, Kane County Emergency Services
Lamont Smith, Kane County Commissioner
Andy Gant, Kane County Commissioner
Brent Chamberlain, Kane County Commissioner
Rhonda Gant, Kane County HR Director
Dave Owens, Kane County Information Technologies
Carol Lamb, Orderville Town
Britt Baer, Kane County Hospital
Stuart Willoughby, Ambulance Services
Jessie Staples, Alton representative
Megan Ramsay, Kane County Dispatch
Mayor Robert Houston, Joe Decker, Kanab City
Scott Alvord, Utah Division of Emergency Management
Pat Guerrero, Kanab Area Chamber of Commerce
Bart Battista, Best Friends Animal Society
Kim Purvis, Fredonia Mayor
David Schmucker, Pat Horning, Big Water Town
Ben Dalton- Superintendent, Kane County School District
Craig Hansen, Kane County Senior Citizen Center

Alan Alldredge: Welcomed everyone to the meeting and reviewed Kane County's current case numbers and the new state guidelines that go into place today. Kane County is currently at 90 total cases with 15 active cases. The state retired their color coded system today and implemented a new 3 tiered "COVID-19 Transmission Index". Each county in the state will be classified as High, Moderate, or low based on 3 criteria. The 3 metrics used are the 7-day average percent positivity, 14-day case rate per 100K population, and the statewide ICU utilization. Kane County is currently classified as "LOW". Each county will be re-evaluated each week and can move up or down in the classifications. One big area the state is seeing the increase in numbers is in "casual social gatherings". That is family gatherings, and groups of youth or college students gathering in large groups and passing the virus. For additional information about the metrics used and the health guidelines for each classification, visit the state's website at coronavirus.utah.gov.

Britt Baer & Stuart Willoughby: Kane County hospital is seeing a lot of trauma related emergency cases. There have been several incidents in the last few weeks where there have been multiple ambulances out on one call or on several calls at the same time. It is taxing on the EMT volunteers and hospital staff.

The hospital's positive COVID numbers are usually about 25 higher than the health departments. They do tests for individuals outside of Kane County as well as individuals who are travelling through or visiting Kane County. Those extra positive cases will be reported in that person's home county. Those travelers who do test positive are being responsible and self-quarantining in their RVs or motel rooms.

Currently Dixie Regional Medical Center is still receiving most of the COVID patients from the small rural hospitals as well as communities in neighboring states. They have the personnel and equipment needed to care for the COVID patients.

Kane County Commissioners: The commissioners talked about the new guidelines and options before the commission at this time. There is a special commission meeting tomorrow to discuss the new guidelines and Kane County's response. There are events coming up the next 2 weekends. Commissioner Chamberlain is meeting with The Office of Tourism to discuss the upcoming events and how to ensure the safety of the participants and to meet the new guidelines.

Ben Dalton: discussed the quarantining changes for students and staff. Previously, anyone who was within 6 feet of someone for 15 minutes who tested positive had to be quarantined for 14 days. Now, students and staff who were at school or on a bus, and wearing a mask at the time of their exposure can be tested after 7 days. If the test is negative, they can return to school. It has helped to get students and staff back quicker.

The districts current statistics are updated each day on the district's website dashboard. Currently there is 1 active case from KHS, 4 recovered cases in the district, with 14 students and 5 staff currently on quarantine. There are no cases of student to student or student to staff transmission. All of the cases have been a result of casual social gathering as indicated by the state.

Mayor Houston: asked how we can get the new information out to the public in an understandable method. He was eager for people to understand that things are on the way up and people need to care for themselves.

Orderville, Alton, Bigwater & Fredonia: They are all monitoring conditions in their communities.

Pat Guerrero: Chamber of Commerce had their first in person meeting since March. It was held outside with proper social distancing at Iron Horse Restaurant. Mayor Houston and Commissioner Chamberlain spoke at the luncheon.

Megan Ramsay: Kane County Dispatch Center has been busy with all the additional traffic in the county that is resulting in extra service call, medical calls, and accidents.

Craig Hansen: The Senior Citizen Center is still doing the easy walk program 3 times per week. Seniors are also able to make appointments to come into the center to use the exercise equipment. They are meeting all the safety guidelines and doing what they can for the seniors in the county.

The Care & Share is in good shape with donations from locals and deliveries from the Utah Food Bank.

Bart Battista: All is going well at Best Friends. They are having a job fair this Saturday at the Roadhouse from 4:00 to 6:30 pm.