



# San Juan County Utah Daily Information Report

Coronavirus (COVID-19)  
May 5, 2020

Stay Safe. Stay Home. Save Lives.

Medical providers are being encouraged to test more people as often as possible. If anyone is displaying any symptoms e.g. Fever, Cough, Shortness of Breath, Muscle Aches and Pains, Decreased Sense of Smell or Taste, Sore Throat, - Get tested! To find a testing site near you please visit <https://coronavirus.utah.gov/utah-covid-19-testing-locations/>

---For Immediate Release---

## San Juan County Experiencing Continued Increase in Case Counts as Mobile Testing Continues

San Juan County continues to see increases in COVID-19 Case Counts as Utah Navajo Health System Inc. (UNHS) and the Utah Department of Health's Utah Public Health Laboratory (UPHL) continue local outreach testing. Results from outreach testing focused in the Montezuma Creek area late last week will be reflected in updated official case counts in the next few days.

Health officials remind the public that increasing local testing uncovers existing infections, and while the numbers increase rapidly as new cases are identified, the numbers do not necessarily reflect changes in rate of spread. Official case counts are available daily at [coronavirus.utah.gov](https://coronavirus.utah.gov).

"These types of testing events help us find cases rapidly," says Kirk Bengé, Director of San Juan County Public Health, "COVID-19 has spread throughout many of our communities, and continues to spread, but our official case counts jump up dramatically whenever we increase testing." All residents should continue to follow State, tribal, and federal precautions as directed. Current state orders are available at [coronavirus.utah.gov](https://coronavirus.utah.gov).

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**Until further notice the County Administration Building and Public Safety Building will be locked to the public and by appointment only for all offices. County personnel will still be available to assist the public but you must call and make an appointment first. Please use the following numbers to contact the department you are looking for**

**Assessor's office, Building Department or DMV – 435-587-3221**

**Administration, Aging, Commission, Emergency Management, EMS, Fire, Public Lands, and Personnel – 435-587-3225**

**Clerk's Office and Information Technology – 435-587-3223**

**USU Extension – 435-587-3239**

**Recorder's Office – 435-587-3228**

**Surveyor – 435-587-3234**

**Economic Development / Visitors Services – 435-587-3235**

**Treasurer – 435-587-3237**

**Sheriff's Office – 435-587-2237**

**SJC Attorney – 435-587-2128**

**Justice Court – 435-587-2544**

**7<sup>th</sup> District Court 435-587-2122**

Be aware of people trying to take advantage of the crisis we are in. There have been reports in other counties of people impersonating local public health departments calling random people and telling them they have been exposed to the virus.

Also at this time the rumor about students needing to repeat the entire school year is just that a rumor.

**Public Health:** San Juan County's local public health order has expired. At this time and for the foreseeable future San Juan County will follow Governor Herbert's Phased Guidelines under the Orange (Moderate Risk) category with no alterations or variations. The full document and color-coded guidelines can be found at: <https://coronavirus.utah.gov/utah-leads-together/>.

For updated case counts please visit: <https://coronavirus.utah.gov/case-counts/> Known infected communities are: Blanding, Bluff, Mexican Hat Area, Montezuma Creek/Aneth area, Monument Valley/Oljato area, and the Navajo Mountain area. As the number of affected communities in the county change, we will issue updates to address those changes, but we will not be issuing updates on individual cases.

Go to <https://sanjuanpublichealth.org/> to find helpful information on the COVID-19 pandemic.

<https://youtu.be/u7SLSq3EsDY>

Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, San Juan Public Health is not allowing anyone into the office until further notice. If you have any questions or concerns pertaining to Vital Records or WIC please call us at 435-359-0038. We will try our best to help you while social distancing. Thank you for understanding!

#### **Clinics:**

**UNHS:** Currently UNHS is conducting its 'Parking Lot Triage' system. Our intent is to screen patients outside of the facility who are experiencing; coughing, shortness of breath, or have a fever. UNHS recommends the following guidelines when visiting our clinics. These follow CDC and Department of Health guidance.

If you suspect you have the coronavirus (cough, high fever, trouble breathing AND a potential history of exposure), please call and notify us in advance so we can take precautions and possibly triage, check you in, and treat you without you entering the facility. In the next few days, we will begin virtual iPad check-in and virtual conversations with doctors for suspected cases. You'll then be able to use the Pharmacy drive-thru. The intent is to have the entire visit done from your car or outside the clinic.

If you are sick, please do not accompany a healthy patient for your visit, and do not enter the facility except to seek care for yourself or someone you are responsible for. Please avoid our facilities if you are healthy, including the Market Cafe in Montezuma Creek. There will be no visitors allowed to patients who have confirmed or possibly have COVID-19. Wear a mask if you have a cough. Do not wear a mask if you feel healthy. Please wash your hands or use alcohol sanitizer before and after leaving a patient room, exam room, and the facility. UNHS (and all facilities) have a very limited number of tests. Your provider will determine whether or not a test is appropriate based on symptoms and travel history.

These guidelines are being put in place for the safety of you, our patients, caregivers, and community. Elderly are especially vulnerable. Teach them the latest information on social distancing and prevention. Here is a public service announcement explaining Covid-19, it's symptoms, and prevention in Navajo, have your grandparents listen to it.

#### **Hospitals:**

**San Juan Health:** San Juan Health is encouraging our patients to consider telehealth clinical visits using HIPAA compliant Microsoft Teams application when appropriate; please call to discuss this option and support the CDC's guidelines on social distancing. SJH has implemented a restricted visitor policy, as of Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup>. Dietary services to the general public have been halted until further notice. SJH has implemented an Emergency Department triage protocol to establish safe workflows and to mitigate the spread of any potential COVID-19 cases. San Juan Health's (SJH) Infection Control and Medical Staff will continue to closely monitor the ongoing Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) outbreak and implement new protocols in a timely manner.

**Blue Mountain Hospital:** BMH personnel are prepared for the possibility of receiving COVID-19 patients. They have implemented a restricted visitor policy and have stopped serving food to the public until further notice. A screening

process has been implemented for the Emergency Room to keep patients and staff safe. BMH is working in conjunction with UNHS to screen and treat patients. They are monitoring and adhering to CDC guidelines. Staff and patient safety continue to be the top priority. They have implemented a screening process for staff, patients, and visitors who enter the building. This is to keep those who are potentially ill with COVID-19 from entering the building and spreading the illness to others. Those entering the parking lot on the north end of the building will be asked several screening questions and have their temperature taken. From there, they either enter the building through the north entrance, enter through the ER for emergencies, or they may be asked to go across the street to the UNHS screening area to continue the screening process if necessary. BMH will continue to disseminate information as it becomes available.

**EMS:** During this time you will see EMS respond with an increase of respiratory protecting masks or other protective gear to ensure your safety as well as the safety of the EMT's. Please do not be alarmed by this. The EMS department will continue to follow all recommendations of the Utah Department of Health, San Juan County Health Department and the CDC to ensure the safety of the people who rely on our EMS Services. To help follow the guidelines of social distancing we will be cancelling all CPR classes and will not be scheduling classes until we feel it is safe to do so. Please note that if San Juan EMS gets overwhelmed with multiple calls our response times may be slower than normal.

**Law Enforcement:** The San Juan County Sheriff's Office is concerned and working on two fronts in dealing with Covid-19. The first front is the effort to keep jail staff and inmates healthy. This includes our very important dispatchers. The San Juan County Jail has suspended all visitations to the jail; all volunteers have also had their visits to the jail terminated. The jail has a plan to have an area available for quarantine if needed. The county jail has a backup plan to feed the inmates if we lose jail cooks to quarantine. We have tele-health capabilities set up and working so that inmates can see a medical doctor without leaving the facility for initial doctor visits. The corrections officers have access to protective equipment.

The second front is the law enforcement and public safety efforts. The patrol deputies are responding to law enforcement incidents. They have safety equipment if needed. We have currently cancelled trainings, except for the cadets we have in POST academy classes and we have encouraged deputies to follow all safety guidelines.

We are not doing fingerprinting for the public at this time at the sheriff's office.

The lobby of the Public Safety Building is locked and closed to the public. If you need assistance from the Sheriff's Office, Justice Court, 7<sup>th</sup> District Court or San Juan County Attorney please use the numbers listed at the beginning of this document to schedule an appointment.

**County:** The San Juan County Administration building is closed to the public. You can schedule an appointment with the office you need by calling the numbers listed at the beginning of this document.

-If you need to do Vehicle Registration we highly recommend utilizing online capabilities [secure.utah.gov](https://secure.utah.gov) or by mail.

-San Juan County Libraries remain closed at this time.

### **Economic Development & Businesses**

Regular Updates: <https://www.utahscanyoncountry.com/covid-19>

- **Agriculture businesses:** SBA Emergency Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) and EIDL Loan Advance Application has reopened today for Agriculture businesses.

-For more information visit: [https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/disaster-assistance?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=govdelivery](https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/disaster-assistance?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery)

-To apply visit: <https://covid19relief.sba.gov/#/>

- To check on the status of your SBA EIDL contact  
1-800-659-2955 or email [disastercustomerservice@sba.gov](mailto:disastercustomerservice@sba.gov)

- SBA Payment Protection Program (PPP) which assists with payroll, rent, mortgage interest, and utilities. This program is through an SBA lender, which locally is Zions. A list of other lenders can be found here: <https://bit.ly/2UOONrF>
- For San Juan County businesses that are open visit: [bit.ly/33tdCKI](http://bit.ly/33tdCKI)

### Visitor Services

Regular Updates: <https://www.utahscanyoncountry.com/covid19-travel>

1-800-574-4386

- Bureau of Land Management Updates (Monticello Field Office)
  - BLM Canyon County District, Monticello Field Office is implementing a soft closure. [Please visit their website for updates](#)
  - The General office number for the Monticello Field Office is 435-587-1500, the San Juan River information line is 435-587-1544, Cedar Mesa Information line is 435-587-1510
  - Camping: Dispersed camping is allowed, however campgrounds and facilities remain CLOSED.
  - Special Use Permitting:
    - Cedar Mesa Permits are open, and no longer being cancelled
    - San Juan River are closed or cancelled, until further notice
- Goosenecks & Edge of the Cedars State Park have re-opened to all public. Dead Horse State Park is currently only open to residents (San Juan & Grand County) <https://stateparks.utah.gov/>
- New Glen Canyon NRA closures and updates (as of 4/6) for details please visit: <https://www.nps.gov/glca/planyourvisit/conditions.htm>
- Canyonlands National Park, Hovenweep National Monument, and Natural Bridges National Monument remain closed. For details please visit: <https://www.nps.gov/index.htm>

### Cities:

**Blanding:** The Blanding City Office lobby is now open with plexiglass partitions to help limit spread and transmission. We are still encouraging anyone who can to interact with the City online, by email, or by phone. We will be working with SJ Health on the possibility of opening the Wellness Center with distancing measures and group size limitations.

**Bluff:** Bluff's closure of non-essential business continues. Both the laundromat and K&C remain open for business.

**Monticello:** The Monticello City Office staff continues to be available to assist citizens. Residents are encouraged to use the drop box for payments or to enroll in auto bill pay through Xpress Bill Pay or with your financial institution. Office doors remain locked and phone numbers are posted on the door to allow residents to talk to city staff and conduct necessary business. City utilities are fully operational, and we anticipate service delivery continuing uninterrupted. The Welcome Center and Hideout Community Center are closed until further notice. The City continues to follow all guidelines as issued by the CDC and State and County Departments of Health and to monitor our practices to assure we protect the public to the extent possible. The City expresses its sincere appreciation to all health care workers and other officials who are working diligently to assure our health and safety.

**School District:** San Juan School District has been, and will continue to comply with the Governor's Office, Utah State Board of Education (USBE) Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the Utah Department of Health, as we navigate evolving COVID-19 safety precautions.

As always, our priority is the safety of our students and staff. District & School Administration are working continuously to see that the needs of the students are met. Distance learning will continue through the extended dismissal. Food Services will still be providing grab and go meals via pickup locations or delivery (Bus Routes). We will continue to closely monitor all developments and take appropriate action.

**San Juan County Aging Department:** To go meals are still in place for the congregate meal and home delivered meals are still being delivered at this time. Clark's Market and Blue Mountain Foods have extended a special shopping hour

every day for the seniors it is 7-8 am, San Juan Pharmacy and The Main Street Drug and Boutique are offering curbside pickup and free delivery in town for seniors. If you are a home bound senior and you are in need of groceries please contact your local senior center for assistance. La Sal 435-686-9990, Monticello 435-2459-2656, Blanding 435-459-3179, Bluff 435-672-2390

**USU Blanding:** USU Blanding has moved all classes online. The Blanding campus and Monticello center are open. However, on campus activity and visits have been limited to current students and employees only. Out of an abundance of caution the Montezuma Creek and Monument Valley centers have been temporarily closed. Those will reopen after the Navajo Nation shelter in place order has been lifted and the USU health and safety department deem them safe to reopen. At this time the university is planning a return to face-to-face classes for the Fall 2020 semester. Applications are being accepted and individuals wishing to pursue their education are encouraged to apply. For more information please visit [blanding.usu.edu](http://blanding.usu.edu).