



Michael Nielson, DO
Medical Director

Brittney Carlson, RN
Nursing Director

Kirk W. Bengé, MPH
Director

Rick Meyer, BS
Environmental Director

Katie Knight, RN
WIC Director

PUBLIC HEALTH ORDER

WHEREAS, UCA §26A-1-101 grants the Health Department jurisdiction in all unincorporated and incorporated areas of the county and San Juan County Health Regulation 1 §4.4.1 provides that the County Health Officer may invoke temporary regulations in an emergency;

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020 Health Officer Kirk Bengé proclaimed a Public Health Emergency in San Juan County, Utah;

WHEREAS, on March 27, 2020 Health Officer Kirk Bengé issued a Public Health Order restricting group gatherings, leisure travel, dine-in food service, and public access to nursing homes;

WHEREAS, On April 3, 2020 the San Juan County Board of Health ratified the continuation of the Local Public Health Emergency and instructed Health Officer Kirk Bengé to monitor the ongoing situation and modify orders as appropriate;

WHEREAS, On April 7, 2020 the San Juan County Commission declared a state of local emergency due to the infectious disease COVID-19 Novel Coronavirus;

WHEREAS, on April 13, 2020, the Navajo Department of Health reported 813 confirmed cases within the Navajo Nation, including 28 deaths, two of which deaths are purported to be residents of San Juan County, Utah ;

WHEREAS, on April 14, 2020 the San Juan County Health Department reported 9 confirmed active COVID-19 cases in in San Juan County, including 2 hospitalizations and is investigating two purported deaths due to COVID-19;

WHEREAS, on April 14, 2020 the Utah Department of Health reported 2412 active COVID-19 cases in Utah, including 213 hospitalizations and 19 deaths;

WHEREAS, as of April 14, 2020 the CDC indicates there are over 579,000 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the United States, including 22,252 deaths;

WHEREAS, San Juan County lacks jurisdiction to enforce involuntary quarantines on Tribal Lands and will require State, Federal, and Tribal cooperation to provide such necessary services to county citizens on Tribal Lands;

WHEREAS, San Juan County hospitals and clinics have a limited number of isolation rooms and ventilators to treat severe or serious cases of COVID-19 in San Juan County, Utah;

WHEREAS, the circumstances of a local COVID-19 outbreak may exceed the capacity of the services, personnel, equipment, supplies and facilities of San Juan County, and require the combined forces of a mutual aid region or regions to combat;

WHEREAS, on March 17, 2020, the Governor of the State of Utah issued a directive establishing minimum statewide standards and referenced that in order to address unique situations in different areas of Utah, local authorities are authorized and may impose more stringent directives and orders; and

WHEREAS, the most recent epidemiologic data and local case counts reflect relative effectiveness of previous Health Orders and community commitment to practicing social distancing, compliance with the Governor's directives, and adherence to local health orders; and

WHEREAS, the local situation merits a modification of the previous Health Order to be reflective of the Governor's Statewide Directive of April 10, 2020;

THEREFORE, PURSUANT TO UCA §26A-1-114 and San Juan County Health Regulation 1 §4.4.1, BE IT DECLARED BY KIRK W. BENGE, SAN JUAN COUNTY HEALTH OFFICER, AS FOLLOWS:

I. Orders for Individuals

Each individual in San Juan County is hereby ordered to engage in the following measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19:

1. Self-isolation after exposure to COVID-19. Self-isolate for 14 days after:

- a. traveling out of state; or
- b. being exposed to an individual presenting symptoms of illness consistent with COVID-19.

2. Social and physical distancing.

- a. Avoid public places as much as possible.
- b. Work from home as much as possible.
- c. Maintain a six-foot distance from individuals who are not members of the same household or residence when outside or in public.
- d. Socialize remotely by phone or video chat as much as possible.
- e. Avoid shaking hands with other individuals.
- f. Do not pay in-person social visits to hospitals, nursing homes, or other residential care facilities.

3. Hygiene.

- a. Wash hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- b. Use hand sanitizer frequently.
- c. Avoid touching your face.
- d. Cover coughs or sneezes by coughing or sneezing into the sleeve or elbow, but not into hands.
- e. Clean high-touch surfaces regularly, including buttons, door handles, counters, and light switches.

4. Outdoor activities and recreation.

- a. Maintain a six-foot distance from individuals who are not members of the same household or residence when engaging in local outdoor activities or recreation, including walking, hiking, running, biking, driving for pleasure, hunting, and fishing.
- b. Avoid high-touch surfaces.
- c. Do not engage in close-contact or team sports.
- d. Do not congregate in groups at trailheads, parks, or other outdoor spaces.

5. Travel.

- a. Limit travel only to essential travel.
- b. "Essential travel" means travel to:
 - i. safely relocate from an unsafe home or residence, including by an individual who has suffered or is at risk of domestic violence or for whom the safety, sanitation, or essential operations of the home or residence cannot be maintained;
 - ii. work if you cannot work remotely;
 - iii. care for a family member or friend in the same household or another household, including transporting family members or friends;
 - iv. transport a child according to existing parenting time schedules or other visitation schedules;
 - v. seek emergency or protective services;
 - vi. obtain the following supplies and services:
 - A. medication and medical services;
 - B. food and other grocery items, including delivery or carry-out services, and alcoholic or non-alcoholic beverages;
 - C. gasoline and other motor-vehicle fuels;
 - D. supplies required to work from home;
 - E. products needed to maintain the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of homes and residences, businesses, and personally owned vehicles, including automobiles and bicycles; and
 - F. laundromat and dry cleaning services;
 - vii. donate blood;
 - viii. care for pets and livestock, including travel to a veterinarian;
 - ix. engage in recreational and outdoor activities close to home; and
 - A. Visitors to San Juan County to engage in recreational activities may do so as long as they comply with this order, and so long as their travel would not violate the rules, regulations, laws, of the state or local health orders of their home jurisdiction.
 - x. return to a home or place of residence.

6. Homeless individuals.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Directive, except as required by the Utah Department of Health or a local health department to maintain public health, a law-abiding individual experiencing homelessness may:

- a. move between emergency shelters, drop-in centers, and encampments; and
- b. remain in an encampment of ten or fewer members without being subject to disbandment by state or local government.

“**Homeless Individuals**” are defined as persons who do not have a permanent physical address.

II. Directives for For-Profit and Nonprofit Organizations

Each business, including for-profit and nonprofit organizations, in San Juan County is hereby directed to engage in the following measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19:

1. Proactive response. Proactively implement policies and best practices to:
 - a. reduce disease transmission among employees and volunteers;
 - b. maintain a healthy work environment; and
 - c. maintain critical operations while complying with state and local orders, directives, and recommendations.
2. Remote work.
 - a. Require employees and volunteers to work remotely from home except to perform work that cannot be done from home.
 - b. Utilize video conferencing and virtual meeting services.
3. Non-remote work.
 - a. Require employees and volunteers who present symptoms of illness consistent with COVID-19 to stay home.
 - b. Do not require a positive COVID-19 test result or healthcare provider's note for an employee or a volunteer who stays home due to illness.
 - c. Enhance social distancing in the workplace by grouping employees and volunteers into cohorts of no more than ten individuals that have limited contact with other cohorts.
 - d. Enable employees and volunteers to follow the directives in Part I, Directives for Individuals, including by providing employees with hand soap, hand sanitizer, or sanitizing wipes.
 - e. Minimize face-to-face contact with high-risk employees and high-risk volunteers.
 - f. Implement flexible work hours.

4. **High-risk individuals.** Take measures to accommodate high-risk individuals.

III. Duration

This Order shall expire on May 1st, 2020, unless further extended or modified in accordance with the law.

Effective Date: April 17 2020



Kirk W. Bengé
Health Officer



Kd Perkins
Chair - San Juan County Board of Health

Approved as to Form: 

Kendall G. Laws
County Attorney

