



# San Juan County Utah Daily Information Report

Coronavirus (COVID-19)  
April 14, 2020

Stay Safe. Stay Home. Save Lives.

--PRESS RELEASE--

Utah Navajo Health System Inc. (UNHS) and the Utah Department of Health's Utah Public Health Laboratory (UPHL) are expanding local testing for the next several days in areas of southern San Juan County. The mobile testing currently underway is focused in areas of the county hardest-hit by COVID-19.

April 13th and 14th the mobile testing task force will be available at the UNHS Navajo Mountain clinic and the 16th and 17th at the Monument Valley location. The team will offer COVID-19 testing to anyone who self-attests to have symptoms, anyone who might be high risk or anyone who has had close contact with a confirmed case. Tests are free and open to everyone regardless of statehood or tribal affiliation. Due to a national shortage, testing is hard to get, but we hope this testing campaign gives answers to a lot of area residents. After this week, local providers will continue testing but only for those patients who show serious symptoms and who are at high risk.

Health officials want the public to be aware that due to this expansion of local testing, the official county case counts reflected at [coronavirus.utah.gov](https://coronavirus.utah.gov) may see a rapid uptick as additional cases are identified.

"We want the public to understand that over the next few days, we expect the number of confirmed cases in the county to increase rapidly," says Kirk Bengé, Director of San Juan County Public Health, "The count of confirmed cases will be driven primarily as a result of improved testing and case identification, not as a result of the further recent spread of the virus". All residents should continue to follow state, local, and tribal precautions as directed.

San Juan County is currently under a Public Health Order

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Residents of San Juan County are prohibited from engaging in outdoor recreational activities in groups larger than ten. This includes camping, and family reunions. Small group gatherings should be avoided. Outdoor recreation is encouraged, but not in groups, and only if appropriate social distancing is maintained.

Visitors to the County are defined as anyone not primarily living in San Juan County. This is typically a person visiting the County either socially or as a tourist.

Residents are defined as a person who lives in San Juan County permanently or has a primary residence in the County.

Proof of Residency for San Juan County includes the following:

- Driver's license with a San Juan County, Utah address
- Vehicle Registration with a San Juan County, Utah address
  - Utility bill with a San Juan County, Utah address
  - Voter Registration with a San Juan County, Utah address
- Do you own property and pay property tax in San Juan County, Utah? If so, is this your permanent residence for the year? If your answer is no, this is a vacation home or vacant property, then this is not your permanent residence you are considered a visitor to the County and at this time should not be visiting San Juan County.

Our local infrastructure is not equipped for an influx of visitors when COVID-19 cases increase in San Juan County. Our local businesses are struggling to provide necessities to our residents while faced with the added burden of providing for visitors.

We understand the difficulty of this message, and encourage you to visit us when the Public Health Order is lifted.

**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:** For updated case counts please visit: <https://coronavirus.utah.gov/case-counts/> Known infected communities are: 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.

Today we received a lot of supplies/PPE to share with hospitals and home health. They are being distributed. We will also be getting a number of new viral transport kits in the next few days to help facilitate testing.

The State announced further relaxing on testing. Given that we will only be able to monitor trends by testing data, the State wants all providers to test as much as possible. They encourage all providers to test anyone with even one symptom. Anyone with a fever should be tested. Anyone with body aches should be tested. Anyone with a cough should be tested, etc. Also, as long as providers fill out the test request form to accompany the sample, there is no longer a need to walk through the complete guidance. Also, providers should ensure they show up on <https://coronavirus.utah.gov/utah-covid-19-testing-locations/>. They will want to make sure that if someone clicks on their location, the instructions are correct.

We want to remind SJC residents and non-residents about our governor's "Stay Safe, Stay Home" Utah directive with emphasis on hunting, that all recreational travel by non-residents of San Juan County is prohibited.

All individuals

1. Stay at home as much as possible
2. Work from home whenever possible
3. Encourage socializing by phone and video chats.

4. Self-quarantine for 14 days after traveling or being exposed to an individual presenting symptoms of illness consistent with COVID-19.
5. Engage in appropriate social distancing, including:
  - a. Maintaining a 6-foot distance at all times from other individuals when in public
  - b. Not shaking hands with other individuals
  - c. Not visiting friends or family without urgent need
  - d. Not attending any gathering of any number of people, except for members of the same household or residence.
  - e. Follow Strict Hygiene Standards
6. Discretionary travel for shopping should be avoided. This includes non-essential unnecessary shopping trips such as "pop runs" "cigarette runs", "beer runs", etc. but combine needs and perform minimal shopping trips.

Time Spent Outside - Sunlight and fresh air are beneficial to everyone.

1. Maintain a distance of at least 6 feet away from another person at all times while outside
2. Exercise outside while maintaining 6-foot distance from another person and without touching common areas
3. Do not congregate at trailheads and other outdoor spaces
4. Do not travel to or participate in activities at any of the following locations
  - a. Places of public amusement or public activity, parks
  - b. Public swimming pools, or
  - c. Gyms, and fitness centers.

#### Travel

1. Limit travel only to essential travel
2. Essential travel means to travel to:
  - a. Safely relocate by an individual whose home or residence is unsafe including individuals who have suffered or are at risk of domestic violence or for whom the safety, sanitation or essential operations of the home or residence can not be maintained.
  - b. Care for a family member or friend in the same household or another household, including transporting family members or friends.
  - c. Transport a child according to existing parenting time schedules or other visitations schedules pertaining to a child in need of protective services,
  - d. Care for pets or livestock, including travel to a veterinarian
  - e. Seek emergency services
  - f. Obtain medications and medicals services
  - g. Donate blood
  - h. Obtain food, including delivery or carry-out services, beverages (alcoholic and non-alcoholic), and other grocery items, gasoline, supplies required to work from home, and products needed to maintain the safety, sanitation, and essential operations of homes and residences, business and personally owned vehicles, including automobiles and bicycles. As ordered by the Governor, discretionary travel for shopping should be avoided. This includes non-essential unnecessary shopping trips such as "pop runs", "cigarette runs", "beer runs", etc. but combine needs and perform minimal shopping trips.
  - i. Perform work if you cannot telework
  - j. Engage in recreational and outdoor activities
  - k. Laundromats and dry cleaners, and
  - l. Return to a home or place of residence.

#### Recreation and Outdoor Activities and Parks

- Remain at least 6 feet apart from individuals from other households while engaging in outdoor activities (e.g., walking, hiking, running, biking, driving for pleasure, hunting or fishing).
- Do not congregate at trailheads, parks, or other outdoor spaces,
- Do not engage in close-contact or team sports
- Do not go to or engage in activities at a State Park located outside the County in which you reside.
- Canyonlands National Park in San Juan County is closed at this time.

- Edge of the Cedars & Goosenecks State Park are restricted to County residents only.
- For an update on public land closures and/or restrictions please visit: <https://www.utahscanyoncountry.com/covid19-travel>

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:** Blue Mountain Hospital has not received or treated any confirmed COVID-19 patients. 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>

- **USDA's** compilation of resources. For businesses, agricultural producers & ranches please see page 2. Community developers please see page 3: <https://bit.ly/3el7A3t>
- **SBA 7a PPP**
  - **Wells Fargo** you will need to have had a WF Business Checking Account since 2/15/20. Apply here: <https://bit.ly/3c0AfZQ>
  - **Zions Bank** is continuing to accept applications. Apply here: <https://bit.ly/2xerlJw>
  - For a list of lenders who **do not require a previous relationship** see this list: <https://bit.ly/2U00NrF>
- For a list of **SJC Business funding resources** please see: <https://bit.ly/2xAznfA>
- Sign up for our daily email: <http://bit.ly/2WtNzBE>

### **Visitor Services**

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

1-800-574-4386

- State Parks remain open to the residents of the county in which the park is located. For San Juan County Residents that includes Goosenecks State Park and Edge of the Cedars State Park. For hours of operation, please visit the State Parks website. <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:** Currently, the Blanding Visitor Center, and Wellness Center are closed temporarily due to COVID-19. The Justice Court is open. The City Office is open the lobby is closed they are asking citizens to do what they can online or call into the office. City utilities are fully operational and we anticipate service delivery continuing uninterrupted. We will follow CDC and local and state health department recommendations in considering any future actions.

**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 Hideout Golf Course will also remain closed until the San Juan Health Department rescinds its order to keep non-essential services closed. 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:** As many of you are aware, Governor Gary Herbert announced on March 23<sup>rd</sup> that all Utah public schools will extend their closures until May 1. 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

**Forest Service Information:** Most of our campgrounds are still covered in snow but those that are not we are keeping closed to avoid congregating groups of people. Both Devils Canyon and Nizhoni Campgrounds are now accessible and we have closed them with gates and/or barriers and signs, with information on the closures.

Most of our trailheads and single toilets are also inaccessible due to snow, those that are accessible we have signed saying they are not regularly maintained and included information on reducing risks (i.e. hand washing, and social distancing). We may end up closing/locking these facilities but they are open for now as they do not congregate people like a developed campground does.

We have been advising the public that dispersed camping is prohibited (except to residents and essential visitors) on the Moab/Monticello Ranger District.