



# San Juan County Utah Weekly Information Report

Coronavirus (COVID-19)  
May 13, 2020

\*\*Please note that this brief will now be weekly instead of daily. It will be updated every Wednesday afternoon. Important and need to know information will be posted when it comes in, but the general update will now be weekly\*\*

**Stay Safe. Stay Home. Save Lives.**

There will be a drive through, free of charge, open testing event on Thursday and Friday (May 14th and 15th) at Centennial Park in Blanding. Testing will run: **8:00 am to 4:00 pm on Thursday** and **8:00 am to 2:00 pm on Friday**. The Utah Navajo Health System, Blue Mountain Hospital, and San Juan Hospital will all be assisting with this. If anyone is having the slightest of symptoms or think that they may have been exposed, we invite them to come and get tested. This event is open to everyone, from any state, any tribe or non-tribal.

Join the San Juan Strong Promise - San Juan Public Health and San Juan County Economic Development has rolled out the San Juan Strong Promise in an effort to help businesses navigate business operations during COVID-19. This includes a toolkit of resources including printables for communities, customers and employees, employee education, certificate, and more. To join the promise and view the resources visit:

[www.UtahsCanyonCountry.com/SanJuanStrong](http://www.UtahsCanyonCountry.com/SanJuanStrong)

Medical providers are being encouraged to test more people as often as possible. If you are 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/>

Until further notice the County Administration 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**

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.

**Public Health:** We are sharing the current phased guidelines, in the form of a checklist, with local businesses and inviting them to provide an attestation of compliance by returning the completed checklist with their signature. We will then issue a certificate to any business that provides a completed checklist with signed attestation.

Reminder:

Current case counts can be found at: <https://coronavirus.utah.gov/case-counts/>. There is a new tab on that site labeled "Incidence and Epidemic Curve" which is also useful.

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.

Here is the link to our [San Juan Strong](https://youtu.be/u7SLSq3EsDY) video. <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's (SJH) Infection Control and Medical Staff will continue to closely monitor the ongoing Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) outbreak and implement new protocols as appropriate. We have re-designed our hospital patient flow which includes an isolated COVID-19 wing where suspected and know COVID-19 patients will be treated; this includes negative pressure rooms. The guidelines established by the Utah Department of Health, CDC, and other various agencies are being followed to protect both our staff as well as our patients. All service lines (Emergency Department, Elective and Emergent Surgeries, Clinical Services, Radiology, Laboratory, etc.) are operational with protective measures established. We ask all patients, where possible, to wear a protective mask for all services. For those that desire, San Juan Health has the ability to conduct telehealth clinical visits when appropriate and face-to-face interaction is sufficient for your healthcare needs

**Blue Mountain Hospital:** Blue Mountain Hospital is prepared to receive COVID-19 patients. They have several options for testing in place and hopes to continue to add additional options. They have implemented a restricted visitor policy and has implemented a screening process to keep visitors, patients, and staff safe. They are monitoring and adhering to CDC guidelines. Staff and patient safety continue to be the top priority. 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. All patients, visitors, and staff are asked to wash their hands and wear a mask at all times when entering the building. BMH will continue to disseminate information as it becomes available. Blue Mountain is here for the community, please call us if you have questions. 435-678-3993.

**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.

The lobby of the Public Safety Building is now open to the public. Some offices have doors closed or other safety measures in place, please be respectful of this and follow the instructions and information provided by staff and signs. If you have any questions you can call any of the offices at the following numbers. **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**

**The Sheriff's Office is still not doing fingerprinting for the public at this time.**

**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>

- **YOUR FEEDBACK IS REQUESTED** for the COVID-19 Business Impact Survey Round 2. Round 1 of the survey contributed to local, state, and federal resources including the RLF emergency fund, PPP, EIDL, UT Bridge loan, and more. San Juan County business feedback is critical.
  - Complete the survey here: <https://bit.ly/3deLTRo>
  - Results from Round 1's survey: <https://bit.ly/3cJFBcs>
- **COVID-19 Commercial Rental Assistance Program (Grant):** This grant available through GOED is intended to help businesses who currently have a lease on a commercial property. This resource is for small businesses including: non profits, sole proprietors, independent contractors, and those that are self-employed. The program OPENS 5/11/20 at 9AM, is first come first served, and will remain open until all funds are expended. For more information: <https://bit.ly/2SJQof3>
- **Rental Assistance** is available for those impacted by COVID-19. The Rental Assistance Program is targeted to help individuals whose income has been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, but have been found ineligible for unemployment benefits. Monthly rent payments of up to \$1,500 can be made directly to landlords. Contact Southeastern Utah Association of Local Governments (435) 637-1959

- **SBA Paycheck Protection Program (PPP)** funding is still available for businesses. If you are in need of assistance with your payroll, rent, mortgage interest, or utilities contact local lenders in San Juan County including: Zions Blanding, Zions Monticello, Wells Fargo, and Desert Rivers Credit Union.

### Visitor Services

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

1-800-574-4386

- Natural Bridges National Monument & Hovenweep National Monument: Limited planned opening Thursday May 14, The roads, trails, and restrooms will be available but the visitor centers/bookstores and campgrounds will remain closed.
- Canyonlands National Park is scheduled to open May 29th. For details please visit: <https://www.nps.gov/index.htm>
- 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/>
- BLM dispersed camping is open to non-residents. Please note that there are continued closures with established/group campgrounds, vault toilets, and special use permits including Cedar Mesa and San Juan River until April 30th
- USFS dispersed camping is open to non-residents. Please note that there are continued closures with established/group campgrounds and vault toilets
- New Glen Canyon NRA closures and updates (as of 4/6) for details please visit: <https://www.nps.gov/glca/planyourvisit/conditions.htm>.
  - May 15 Halls Crossing will open to all boats with limited hours
  - May 22 Halls Crossing will open 7 days a week with overnight camping

### 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. The Wellness Center is open with some restrictions and protective measures in place. Please listen to and follow the directions given by staff and informational signs.

**Bluff:** On Friday, May 8th, the Town of Bluff was granted an exception to the Governor's Executive Order. Bluff is now in the "red risk" zone and will remain there until May 15th when Governor Herbert is expected to review the May 1 Executive Order. The Town of Bluff expects that Governor Herbert will review Bluff's exception at the same time.

The Bluff Community Center remains closed to the public

**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 is open under certain restrictions to assure social distancing and safety. 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. 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).