



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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TO: Summit County Board of Health  
Scott Vargo  
Jeff Huntley  
FROM: Lori Dwyer  
RE: BOCC and BOH Joint Work Session of January 12, 2021  
DATE: January 12, 2021

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**Attendees:**

Elected Officials (via conference phone): Elisabeth Lawrence, Tamara Pogue and Josh Blanchard – Commissioners  
Jaime FitzSimons – Sheriff

Staff (via conference phone): Scott Vargo, County Manager; Jeff Huntley, County Attorney; Cameron Turpin, Assistant County Attorney; Bentley Henderson, Assistant County Manager; Sarah Vaine, Assistant County Manager; Marty Ferris, Finance Director; Amy Wineland, Public Health; Brian Bovaird, Director of Emergency Management; Nicole Valentine, Public Health Public Information Officer; Molly Boyd, Human Resources Director; Jim Curnutte, Community Development Director; April Kroner, Planning Director; Hannah Wynd, Environmental Health Specialist; April Paige, Executive Administrative Manager and Lori Dwyer, Administrative Assistant.

Guests (via phone): Alys Macias, Ashley Kubiszyn, Blair McGary, Antonio Olivero, Hal Vatcher, Lisa May, Peter Siegel, Don Parsons, Carol Kresge, Nichole Seliga, Peter Reeburgh, Kim Nearpass, Anna McGoff, Corry Mihm and others that did not sign in.

Commissioner Pogue introduced the Board of Health's shared values including consistent and equitable decisions that are informed by local data, fighting for balance between public health and economic and behavioral health needs, and recognition of staff.

**1. Standing Agenda Items/Updates**

**a. Local and Regional/State COVID Case and Hospitalization Statistics and Trends**

Amy Wineland noted that cases are going up in the state and locally, and that hospitalizations will likely follow. She noted that after every holiday we have a bump in cases and will know in the next week or so if it will be suppressed, and to do so we need the community to continue to follow six commitments. She noted that all the statistics on website are for residents and that Public Health is currently working on getting visitor statistics from local testing partners with the goal of having that information by next week.

**b. Local Testing Statistics and Program Update**

Ms. Wineland noted that total tests mimic the rise in cases that we are seeing.

**c. Vaccine Distribution Update**

Ms. Wineland thanked staff and local partners for their assistance in vaccine distribution. She noted that as of last Friday, 2,580 vaccines were given, and over 2,000 will be available to distribute this week. Summit County Public Health is working with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment to increase staffing and add vaccine bays to the drive through Points of Distribution (PODs). She noted that Public Health continues to work with local pharmacies to make the vaccine available to them, and to get them set up to order their own vaccines. Ms. Wineland clarified that the State has directed local health departments to vaccinate part-time and full-time residents over the age of 70, because health care systems work with individuals across county lines and because part-time residents can overwhelm health care systems as much as full-time residents can. Public Health is asking part-time residents to receive their vaccinations at Safeway or City Market, and full-time residents to receive theirs at the drive-through PODs. Links and contact information are available at the Summit County Government website. Sarah Vaine noted that Public Health has made certain that Summit County has not wasted a single dose of the vaccine.

**d. Transmission Trends**

Ms. Wineland noted that we know that gatherings have increased since Summit County moved to Level Orange. Transmission trends have been seen at ski resorts and among school district employees. She gave a reminder that gatherings are limited to two households and no more than ten people, and that you are more likely to get the virus from someone you know than someone you do not know. She noted that we are months away from any kind of herd immunity.

**e. Public Health Order Update – Discussion of Any Changes**

Scott Vargo introduced potential Public Health Order changes including changing the process of Short Term Rental check-ins by leaving the same basic language around confirmation but making it more user-friendly to comply with and putting more onus on renter that they understand and will meet those rules. He also noted that there has been discussion with the Restaurant Association around the timeframe of alcohol sales, and whether there might be exceptions granted to specific restaurant types. The Board requested a copy of the existing and proposed language of the Public Health Order, and asked whether we are seeing spread from visitors within those industries. Ms. Wineland recommended waiting a week to make any changes due to the recent increase in cases, and noted that she liked the idea of Five Star certified restaurants getting an incentive for maintaining their status in the program. She also noted that the State is gathering statewide statistics of infection rate by occupation.

April Kroner introduced the Economic Recovery Dashboard that Gunnison County is using, which was discussed at length with Summit County's Economic Recovery Group. Commissioners and staff discussed the potential value of the dashboard to Summit County, and whether some pieces of data might be useful in decision-making going forward.

**f. Communications Update and Discussion**

Nicole Valentine gave an update on vaccine communications including local partners, quantities, and the process for opening registration. She noted that the County sends out an SC Alert exactly when registration opens. Public Health continues to release videos on the safety and efficacy of these vaccines, and just released a video from Centura Health that answers a lot of frequent vaccine questions. She noted that one additional emphasis of communication has been the new Friday Town Halls with the Commissioners, which will be streamed on Facebook and will have live interpretation on Zoom.

**g. Emergency Management Update**

Brian Bovaird thanked Public Works and Information Systems for their continued support of the PODs and scheduling systems. He gave a brief introduction to the upgraded Public Information Hotline, which was reworked due to increased call volume from vaccination requests. The hotline filters calls more efficiently to live support in both English and Spanish. Mr. Bovaird gave an update on emergency housing for individuals under quarantine and isolation orders.

**h. Economic Recovery and Support Program Updates**

Mr. Vargo gave an update on the State Small Business Relief Program and noted that Summit County expects to hear from the State on Friday regarding approval. This will be a joint program administered by the County and local towns, and will benefit restaurants, gyms, movie theaters and caterers.

**i. Community Indicators and Programs**

Ms. Vaine recognized Brian Bovaird's efforts related to the Public Information Hotline. She noted that the need for food programs continues to be busy.

**2. Critical Topics Not Covered Above**

Commissioner Lawrence noted that the State's dial framework is changing and that we will have more information in the coming weeks.

Ms. Wineland noted that she will check with the Contact Tracing team about local success about the COVID-19 Exposure Notification phone app, but stated that the State has seen a decrease of spread due to quick identification of close contacts with its use.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

 Approved by:  
  
Lori Dwyer, Deputy Clerk  
  
Elisabeth Lawrence, Chair