

TO: Summit County Board of Health
Scott Vargo
Jeff Huntley
FROM: Sara R Lopez
RE: BOCC and BOH Joint Work Session of April 1, 2021
DATE: April 1, 2021

Attendees:

Elected Officials (via Zoom): Elisabeth Lawrence, Tamara Pogue and Joshua Blanchard – Commissioners
Jaime FitzSimons - Sheriff

Staff (via phone or Zoom): Scott Vargo, County Attorney; Jeff Huntley, County Attorney; Cameron Turpin, Assistant County Attorney; Bentley Henderson, Assistant County Manager; Molly Boyd, Human Resources Director; Amy Wineland, Public Health Director; Brian Bovaird, Emergency Management Director; Nicole Valentine, Communications Director, April Paige, Executive Administrative Manager and Sara R Lopez, Administrative Assistant.

Guests (via phone or Zoom): Don Parsons, H. Pezzella, Helen Cospolich, Jen Pullen, Katie Knoll, Kristin S., Peter Siegel, Peyton Rogers, Sawyer DArgonne and others who did not sign in.

I. Standing Agenda Items/Updates

a) Public Health Director Updates

i. Local and Regional/State COVID Case and Hospitalization Statistics and Trends

Amy Wineland gave an update on the latest case data.

Summary Epi Trends

- Cases and hospitalizations remain plateaued. Percent positivity increasing.
- Update on Variants
 - 898 cases of the B.1.1.7 (UK) variant of concern
 - 23 cases of the B.1.351 (South Africa) variant of concern
 - 328 cases of the B.1.427/B.1.429 (CA) variant of concern
 - 26 cases of the B.1.526.2 (NYC) variant under investigation
 - 2 cases of the P.2 (Brazil- NOT P.1) variant under investigation
- Increasing number of the sentinel specimens being tested weekly by whole genome sequencing are the B.1.1.7 variant, better estimates at the end of the week.
- Among neighboring counties, Pitkin County is in Level Orange.
- The county is starting to see the results of vaccination among the older adults but there has been an increase in cases among young adults.

Key Messages

- We remain at a very uncertain point in the pandemic in Colorado. Hospitalizations have been at a plateau for over a week, with uncertainty as to the direction of the epidemic curve.

- Based on data through 3/22, we estimate that transmission control has dropped sharply over the short
- The benefits of vaccination continue to be realized. We estimate that approximately 25% of Coloradans are currently immune due to vaccination and/or prior infection. Of those, 65+, 62% are immune and hospitalizations are declining among those 70+.
- If both the dial and the statewide mask order are removed AND substantial changes in behavior result, Colorado could have a peak in hospitalizations and deaths above the December peak. If both measures are removed, clear communication regarding the continued risks of infection, particularly among those not yet vaccinated will be important.
- Comparing the potential impact of relaxation of control measures shows that waiting until May 5, 2021 substantially reduces the resulting rise in infections, hospitalizations and deaths.
- Mobility continues to rise across the state. Spring break visitors are having an impact on ski regions.

Ms. Wineland gave an overview of scenarios and potential impacts of removing the Mask Mandate and the Dial too quickly.

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

Test requests have plateaued and Ms. Wineland encouraged anyone experiencing symptoms to be tested. She also noted that a person could still get COVID even after fully vaccinated, especially with the different variants that keep emerging.

iii. **Vaccine Distribution Update**

Ms. Wineland encouraged everyone to pre-register at <https://www.comassvax.org/>, and she reminded how important it is for eligible adults to be vaccinated in order to protect young people who cannot receive the vaccine yet.

She also gave an update on the vaccination PODs and said they will be scheduling PopUp Clinics in late afternoon or evenings to accommodate people who do not get paid time off at their place of work.

Ms. Wineland also addressed question regarding bad vaccine batches and said they are well aware of the issues.

For additional vaccination pre-registration details, please visit Summit County's website at <https://www.summitcountyco.gov/1423/Scheduling-Vaccinations>

iv. **Transmission Trends (5 & 6)**

Contact Tracing Trends

- Cases are trending to be much younger. A large portion in the 20's.

Outbreaks

- Increases in Social Gathering and Food Service outbreaks. Numbers over the past week: 3/25/21 to 4/01/21
 - Social Gatherings Outbreaks: 3
 - Food Service Outbreaks: 2
 - Resort Outbreaks: 3

b) Public Health Order Update – Discussion of Any Changes

Scott Vargo said the current Public Health Order has been extended through April 30, 2021. At this time, the county is within Level Orange numbers; therefore, if the state decides to move the county from Level Yellow to Orange, the order will be amended.

c) 5-Star Program Update

Bentley Henderson said the 5-Star Program Committee asked the Board to reconsider the 2-household requirements for lodging. They also reiterated the burden placed on restaurant staff in having to confirm the number of households in a party.

d) Communications Update and Discussion

Nicole Valentine said they have new ads with the new vaccination eligibility. They are also working on a joint campaign with the town encouraging the community to keep going and not give up. She encouraged everyone to follow the Six Commitments, especially with mask wearing.

e) Emergency Management Update

Brian Bovaird gave an update on this week's vaccination clinics.

f) Economic Recovery and Support Program Updates

Bentley Henderson recognized the terrific work Corry Mihm, has done along with the Summit Prosperity Group and the Chamber of Commerce in order to help the Business Community.

g) Community Indicators and Programs

Nicole Valentine said that food assistance requests have increased.

II. Open BOH/BOCC Discussion, As Needed

Summit County's Public Health Orders and latest information is available at www.summitcountyco.gov. Click on *Get COVID-19 Info and Updates*.


Meeting Adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved by:



Sara R. Lopez, Deputy Clerk



Elisabeth Lawrence, Chair