



Addressing the Current Spike in Utah County

To the Utah County Community:

As a County Commission and the appointed Health Director of Utah County Health Department, we are concerned about the recent spike of COVID-19 cases in our community. If the recent trajectory of cases were to continue, our healthcare system's capacity could be at risk and the entire County may be put back into the Orange Level restrictions. While the 15-24 age group currently represents the highest number of cases (and this age group tends to have much lower hospitalization and mortality rates), the spike is not isolated to this demographic. It is spreading throughout our entire community to the point that the state has now moved Provo and Orem to the Orange Level restrictions.

We would like to acknowledge that a majority of our residents and businesses have done a great job of voluntarily complying with the guidelines and implementing changes to their lifestyle and business practices—often at great cost. The administrations of Brigham Young University and Utah Valley University are also taking decisive action to address this health crisis. Such action is far more impactful than anything county government can do on its own. We pledge to continue offering data, tools, suggestions and resources to the private sector to assist these efforts.

At this critical time, we call upon our local residents, businesses, universities, and others to continue following the State's Phased Guidelines. Our Health Department, county administration, and city administrations will focus on reviewing licensed entities and large gatherings for compliance. We also place property owners on notice that they are expected to prevent large gatherings with blatant disregard for public health guidelines from occurring on their premises.

Finally, face coverings help to prevent the spread of COVID-19. While our youngest and healthiest residents may not be as susceptible to the severe symptoms of this virus—an outbreak places many of our more vulnerable residents at risk and also threatens to limit our ability to continue the economic, educational, social and recreational activities that help this community thrive. The face covering requirement provides for exceptions, local adaptation, and is not intended to be enforced with criminal penalties. We want the message for our residents to be as clear as possible: When in public and unable to consistently maintain a safe distance, we are expected to wear face coverings.

Please join with us in doing all we can to slow the spread during these next 30 days (or shorter if certain public health metrics are achieved). It takes all of us doing our part to get through this—hopefully resulting in a return to normalcy as soon as possible. This updated Public Health Order is just one small part of a more comprehensive plan which will include additional public education, coordination with our cities, businesses, educational institutions, and further guidance from federal, state and local health experts. If we can curb this most recent spike and quickly move all of Utah County back to the yellow phase it may save lives and jobs in our community.

Utah County Health Director Ralph Clegg
Commissioner Tanner Ainge
Commissioner Nathan Ivie



PUBLIC HEALTH ORDER

Utah County, Utah

WHEREAS, the Utah County Health Department ("Department") Executive Director/Local Health Officer finds the widespread community transmission occurring among the general public and the need for Utah County and the public to work cooperatively and proactively to slow the spread of COVID-19 and address any challenges that may arise due to this disease in Utah County; and

WHEREAS, the State of Utah has recently experienced the highest positive test rate for COVID-19 since the pandemic emerged, with a disproportionate percentage coming from Utah County; and

WHEREAS, the Department recognizes and acknowledges the health, social, and economic concerns caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, and affirms that these concerns motivate the Department's desire to have a local order aimed at protecting public health while allowing the economy to continue to reopen; and

WHEREAS, the Department Executive Director/Local Health Officer, recognizing the need for Utah County and the public to continue to work cooperatively and proactively to slow the spread of COVID-19, does hereby find that there is an imminent and proximate threat to public health from COVID-19 in Utah County.

NOW THEREFORE, PURSUANT TO UTAH CODE § 26A-1-114 AND UTAH COUNTY CODE 10-2-5, THE UTAH COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/LOCAL HEALTH OFFICER, RALPH CLEGG, AND PURSUANT TO UTAH CODE § 53-2A-209, THE UTAH COUNTY COMMISSION, DO JOINTLY ISSUE THIS PUBLIC HEALTH ORDER FOR UTAH COUNTY:

Section 1. The intent of this Public Health Order is to ensure a coordinated implementation of practices which slow the transmission of COVID-19. All individuals living, working within, or visiting Utah County are expected to adhere to the current "Phased Guidelines for the General Public and Businesses to Maximize Public Health and Economic Reactivation" (the "Guidelines") applicable to their area.

Section 2. Whereas the current Guideline levels applicable to Utah County (Yellow and Orange) emphasize the importance of face coverings, each individual within Utah County must wear a face covering in public areas, including any indoor or outdoor space open to the public, where

consistent physical distancing of at least six feet from any other individual who does not dwell in the same household is not possible, reasonable, or prudent.

Section 3. The following individuals are exempt from this Order:

- 3.1 an individual under five years of age;
- 3.2 an individual with a medical condition, mental health condition, or disability that prevents the wearing of a face covering;
- 3.3 an individual engaged in an activity where the ability to see the mouth is essential for communication with others, or who is communicating with an individual who is deaf or hard of hearing;
- 3.4 an individual for whom wearing a face covering would create a risk to the individual related to the individual's work or activity, as determined by local, state, or federal regulators or workplace safety guidelines;
- 3.5 an individual who is obtaining a service involving the nose or face for which temporary removal of the face covering is necessary to perform or obtain the service;
- 3.6 an individual who is seated at a restaurant or other establishment that offers food or beverage service, while the individual is eating or drinking;
- 3.7 an individual who is purchasing a product or receiving services that requires identification may briefly remove a face covering, as necessary, so that a retailer or service provider can verify identity;
- 3.8 an individual engaging in work where the individual is alone in an indoor establishment or facility;
- 3.9 an individual engaging in strenuous physical activity where circumstances are not reasonably conducive to wearing a face covering, such as swimming, running, etc.;
- 3.10 an individual who otherwise qualifies for an exemption under State Health Order 2020-11¹, or any other state or federal exemption regarding face coverings.

Section 4. This Order takes immediate effect, and will expire at 11:59 p.m. on October 20, 2020, unless extended, rescinded, superseded, or amended in writing, and shall be re-evaluated as warranted. This Order shall be on file for public inspection with the Utah County Health Department. This order may be rescinded prior to this term if key public health metrics such as case counts, hospitalization rates, positivity rates, and mask compliance indicate a declined risk to public health and a lower level of restriction is reasonable and prudent.

¹ This Order does not supersede State Health Order 2020-11, or any amendments thereto, regarding face coverings in schools.

As the world-wide pandemic continues to evolve, we recognize the extraordinary and difficult efforts of the many individuals and businesses in our communities who implement and enforce this Order. The purpose of this Order is to promote and protect individuals' health and not to impose criminal penalties. In the event a municipality has enacted a local mask ordinance, order, or regulation, that local ordinance, order, or regulation shall apply to such municipality and supersede this order.

EFFECTIVE DATE: September 22, 2020

**BY ORDER OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/LOCAL HEALTH OFFICER OF THE
UTAH COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT AND THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS, UTAH COUNTY, UTAH.**

UTAH COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
UTAH COUNTY, UTAH



Ralph Clegg
Utah County Health Department
Executive Director / Local Health Officer



Tanner Ainge, Commission Chair

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
DAVID O. LEAVITT
Utah County Attorney

By: 
Deputy County Attorney