

All Industry Call Notes

9/22/20

Agenda

1. Public Health and Testing Update
2. Loren Ahonen and Joni Reynolds presented on what Protect Our Neighbors status means for local business

Public Health Update

- Loren provided an update on testing results and capacity within Gunnison County.
- In the 14-day period from Sep. 1-Sep. 14, positivity sits at 0.7% with a total of 3 positive results. We have not had any positive test results since September 1st.
 - As of 9/22, there continue to be no positive tests since Sep. 1
 - All results listed as pending have been received by public health as of time of the meeting but they have not yet been processed
- The community is currently in a good position as it relates to Coronavirus transmission and we have to keep up our work to continue that trend

Loren Ahonen and Joni Reynolds presentation on Protect Our Neighbors and Business

- Protect Our Neighbors is the highest level of the State's new public health COVID-19 Dial
- This is a system akin to our Gunnison County Coronameter with different covered levels that coincide with various levels of public health restrictions
- There are currently five counties in Colorado with Protect Our Neighbors status
- This is not a permanent designation and key metrics continued to be monitored by the state
- Should Gunnison county fall out of compliance with these metrics CDPHE will monitor for two weeks before convening with the local health department on containment strategies
- The metrics monitored by CDPHE for the PON status are:
 - New cases
 - A case is different than a positive test
 - For Gunnison County the threshold of concern is roughly 4 new cases in two-week period (based on our population)
 - Percent Positivity Testing
 - Must remain below 5% positivity in a two-week average
 - Stable or Declining Hospitalizations
- While Gunnison County is currently in a strong position related to Coronavirus community spread and COVID-19 infection, we need to continue to remain vigilant
- We have proven that our local measures are working which allows us to continue following them
- For the Community at-large this means continuing The Seven Commitments of Containment
 - Physical distancing
 - Face Covering
 - Screening, Isolation, or Quarantine
 - Enhanced Hand Hygiene

- Enhanced Cleaning/Disinfecting
- Protecting the At Risk Community
- Enhanced Ventilation
- For the business community, this means we continue to operate in the Blue Level of the Gunnison County Corona Meter
 - That means businesses should continue to follow the Blue Level guidance and the particulars of their sector plans
- There are several adjustments to note. These are situations where the State's public health order used to supersede our Gunnison County Coronameter
 - Group sizes increase to match the Blue Level of the Coronameter
 - 50 Indoors/250 Outdoors
 - Event sizes increase to match the Blue Level of the Coronameter
 - Indoor events up to 50 and outdoor events up to 250
 - Potential for larger events exists with direct approval from Public Health Director and Law Enforcement through the [Event Risk Mitigation Application](#)
 - All events must continue to utilize the Event Risk Mitigation Application (ERMA) or Self Certification process based on size
 - Still require appropriate social distancing measures, etc.
- There is potential to increase the occupancy in businesses with a 50% capacity limitation
 - For every four weeks (beginning on 9/15) that Gunnison County remains in PON status we will have the opportunity to increase the occupancy by 5%
 - This would overtime allow for greater occupancy than the current 50%/50-person threshold that is in place for some businesses
- The previously discussed updates for bars/restaurants regarding seating arrangements and partitions are being finalized in the Sector Plan to be released to all restaurateurs
- Any future changes/adjustments will be announced by Gunnison County Public Health
- More information on Protect Our Neighbors and the 9/17 Virtual Town Hall can be found [here](#)

Questions for Joni Reynolds

Q: Can you define "herd immunity" and how that might move us to the Green Level on the Coronameter?

A: Herd immunity or Community immunity is a measure of how many individuals are protected in a group/community through vaccination or natural immunity (exposure to a disease resulting in long term protection). This protection would predict how easily a disease can spread in a community/group. This measure considers that some individuals cannot get a vaccine or may have immune disorders that prevent a vaccine from protecting them. Most diseases are not able to spread if the Herd or Community immunity is >90% and some diseases will be limited in their spread for lower levels at 60-90%. Any community immunity will provide some protection but may not interfere significantly with the disease spread. There is not good consensus on the level needed to prevent COVID-19 disease spread yet. The best estimates are 60-70% of the community would need to have antibodies to achieve herd or community immunity and significantly impact the spread.

Q: With the PON status, will the construction community be updated and will the numbers go up from only 10 people on a jobsite?

A: We are working to reach all business sectors through the All Business Calls and the sub group e-mail lists. If businesses or individuals are not on that list they can subscribe to notifications [here](#) in the Weekly Meetings section. Gunnison County contractors who have previously submitted an exemption request to Joni Reynolds are able to operate within the conditions of that exemption. For those who still need to complete the exemption process (or new contractors from out-of-town) the contractor exemption should still be completed. General Contractors can submit the appropriate exemption request [here](#).

Q: What are the rules for retail going forward?

A: Currently, retail establishments are operating within the guidelines of the Blue Level on the Coronameter. The potential for increases in capacity restrictions (the 5% increase) exists across all limited businesses.

Q: At what date do the calculations for the 5% increase begin?

A: This begins with our designation of having received Protect Our Neighbors status on 9/15/20

Q: If the capacity of a business increases, will the 6 feet social distancing still be required?

A: Yes, social distancing considerations remain in place outside of the unique seating circumstances being addressed in the Sector Plan for bars/restaurants.

Q: For restaurants currently capped at 50 people, will the 5% apply to this number.

A: Yes, the progressive increase in capacity overtime would allow for more than 50 people in the establishment

Q: In the Blue Level of the Coronameter, restaurants have a maximum of 8 ppl per table. Will this change?

A: Yes, per the PON guidance a maximum of 10 people will be allowed at a table.

Q: Once a vaccine is approved do we go back to normal in businesses?

A: For a vaccine to push Gunnison County into the Green Level of the Coronameter it would need to be effectively available and dispersed to the broader Gunnison community. Currently there are still many unknowns regarding the timing, availability, and delivery of an approved COVID-19 vaccine.

Q: Many businesses will not be able to stay economically viable in the Blue Level for an entire winter. As we are seeing that COVID-19 is affecting the poor disproportionately is this being taken into consideration?

A: Yes, Gunnison County is evaluating opportunities to support businesses through the pandemic. There is a recognition of the significant challenges faced by local businesses in the current climate. For the disproportionate impact, Health and Human Services is aware of these discrepancies as they exist in our community, though they are occasionally harder to define. HHS mission is to help account for these economic challenges and discrepancies that exist with seasonal employment and are currently exacerbated by the pandemic. HHS has pursued additional grant resources (and continues to) to ensure

that they will have resources available to address the basic needs of those impacted by COVID. Please make sure to refer anyone you know who is being financially impacted by the pandemic to Health and Human Services to see how the team there can help meet their needs. The main line for Health and Human Services is 970-641-3244.