

## All Industry Meeting Notes – 12/8/20

### Public Health Update

- As of 12/7/20:
  - 594 Positives
  - 5,702 Negatives
  - 59 Pending
  - 10.91% positivity rate as of 12/7
  - 3 or more days with 3 positive tests in a 7 day window
  - 348.7 per 100,000 incidence rate (this is a State metric)
    - This is quite high, but lower than many communities in the State
- There was a question about why the data dashboard is not displaying location of test results currently.
  - This is due to NULL fields (incomplete) location fields in the dataset. That issue has been addressed and location data will be redisplayed when the sample is robust and accurate.
- Free community testing will be conducted in Crested Butte on 12/17/20 and 12/18/20 in Gunnison from 7am-5pm. If you are in line by 5pm you will be tested.
  - The testing is free and available to all community members.
  - It is a drive-up process where participants will do a self-swab and place it in a sealing vial
  - The testing will be done by the Colorado National Guard with Curative Labs PCR tests
  - This means that the test is looking for active COVID-19 infection amongst symptomatic and asymptomatic people. It does not detect past infections or antibodies.
  - Also, this is a snapshot of current infection, it does not mean that you might not become infected in the near future.
    - Again, receiving a negative result does not preclude you from obligations for social distancing, masking, and other hygiene standards.
- Those interested in getting tested should use the following links to pre-register. You may need to change browsers or devices if you experience challenges with the website
  - CB Link (Dec 17): <https://curative.com/sites/15529/walkup#9/38.8309/-106.9095>
  - Gunnison Link (Dec 18): <https://curative.com/sites/15531/walkup#9/38.5433/-106.9309>
- Like other positive PCR test results (say at the Hospital) your result will be reported to Public Health for necessary contact tracing
  - You will receive your individual result digitally through e-mail or text message

## CO COVID Relief Special Session Bill Summary

### HB20B-1001

#### Grants to Improve Internet Access in P-12 Education

- The bill creates a new grant system administered by the CO Department of Higher Education. The Connecting Colorado Students Grant Program is intended to help local education providers promote broadband access for students, educators and staff
- Necessary Stakeholders – Gunnison Watershed School District, Gunnison County

### HB20B-1002

#### Emergency Relief Programs For Child Care Sector

- Creation of two distinct emergency relief grant programs to existing licensed and start-up child care providers.
  - The sustainability grant program will be administered by CO Department of Human Services. This is intended to support licensed providers and particularly those facing potential closure due to the pandemic. Formula, criteria and grant timeline will be determined by 1/31/20. Capacity will be a key consideration in allocations of awards.
    - Grants from \$500 - \$35,000.
  - The emerging and expanding child care grant. This grant program is intended for licensed providers (new or existing) who intend to expand or create new services. Includes staff training, background check fees, cleaning supplies, educational supplies, and capital or facility improvement costs.
    - Grant range from \$3,000-\$50,000 dollars.
- A combined \$45 million is available for both programs

### HB20B-1004

#### Qualified Retailer Retain Sales Tax for Assistance

- Allows for a temporary deduction of state net taxable sales (2.9%) for qualifying retailers in alcoholic beverages drinking places, restaurants, food trucks, and other eating places (i.e. bars and restaurants widely construed). Sales tax of greater than 2.9% must be collected (which it is in Gunnison County).
  - Qualifying retailers can temporarily deduct this state sales tax (up to \$70,000 in sales) from November 2020 – through February 2021

### HB20B-1003

- Food Pantry Assistance Grant Program
- Expands and extends the existing Food Pantry Assistance Grant Program. Eligible food banks and food pantries (including faith-based organizations) can seek grants through February 28, 2021. All funds intended to be expended by June 30, 2021.
  - Removes the cap of \$35,000 on previous grant requests. The cap for direct and indirect expenses increases to 20%. Food Delivery becomes an allowable expense.
  - Grant allocations will not be tied to county risk level on the state dial.

- Adds \$5 million to be appropriated in new grants

#### HB20B-1005

##### Local Authority to Impose Food Delivery Fee Restrictions

- Allows counties and municipalities to restrict fees and service of third-party delivery
- Gunnison County currently has no third-party delivery services

#### HB20B-1006

##### Insurance Premium Tax Payments and Credits

- Allows businesses to seek refund on overpayment of insurance premiums

#### SB20B-001

##### COVID-19 Relief Small and Minority Businesses and Arts Organizations

Bill creates funding sources for businesses facing severe capacity restrictions. Also creates a funding pool for impacted arts, culture, and entertainment organizations, artists, and crews. Creates an opportunity for CDPHE funding for retail food licenses and liquor licenses. Would need to be administered by the County. The application for these funds will be due to the State on 1/8/20. The State will render funding decisions by 1/15/20.

- \$37 million in direct relief payments to qualifying small business (bars, restaurants, entertainment, fitness, recreation) facing severe capacity restrictions
  - This means a County is operating under a public health restriction as of 12/31/20 that includes the following restrictions:
    - (A) THE CLOSURE OF RESTAURANTS FOR IN-PERSON, INDOOR DINING; (B) THE CLOSURE OF BARS AND THE PROHIBITION OF INDOOR EVENTS; AND (C) A LIMIT OF THE LESSER OF TEN PERCENT CAPACITY OR TEN PEOPLE PER ROOM OR POOL FOR GYMS, RECREATION CENTERS, AND INDOOR POOLS;
    - Gunnison County must also be in good faith compliance with the Governor's Executive orders
    - Must be showing a good faith in enforcing compliance
- Essentially this means eligible communities must be RED on the State Dial
  - Gunnison County is not
- There is a potential that counties with less than 100,000 be eligible for a larger share of this funding
- \$4 million available for minority-owned businesses through OEDIT
  - We might have businesses that could access this funding – particularly our Mexican restaurants and other establishments
- \$7 million available to arts organizations, artists, and other creatives
- Administered by the Creative Industries Division of OEDIT
  - *Capital projects likely eligible but might have to be in a Creative District?*

- Funds available for the waiver of specific retail food licenses (\$6.7 million) and liquor licenses (\$1.8 million)
  - Gunnison County and municipalities will be able to waive these fees and be reimbursed by additional funds from the State
  - There are details as to how this will be done and particularly with licenses already paid
    - Jenn Chavez at Gunnison County Health and Human Services is tracking closely for retail food licenses
    - Municipalities will follow with more information regarding liquor licenses

#### SB20B-002

##### Housing and Direct COVID Emergency Assistance

- Compels a transfer of \$50 million from the General Fund to establish the programs for emergency housing and direct assistance. This requires DOLA to create a new housing assistance program that includes those who may not currently be eligible for DOLA housing assistance.
  - Creates an Emergency Direct Assistance Fund and Grant to help cover housing costs
- Also adds funding to the legal aid fund to eviction proceedings
- Funds must be expended by June 30, 2021

#### SB20B-003

##### Money For Energy Utility Bill Assistance

- The bill moves funding from the General Fund to provide to Energy Outreach Colorado for additional utility assistance.
- This is a \$5 million allocation that must be spent by July 25, 2021 and the remaining funds will be returned to the State from EOC
- These funds (EOC Bill Payment Assistance program) are available to qualifying Gunnison County residents through Health and Human Services

#### SB20B-004

##### Transfer to Make Money Available for COVID-19 Emergency

- Requires the Treasurer to move \$100 million from the General Fund to the Controlled Maintenance Trust fund to be used at the Governor's discretion
- This is a state budgetary level transaction that does not have immediately identifiable consequences.

#### **Additional Questions and Notes**

- Gunnison County and the recovery team will seek to keep businesses updated with new information about the grant cycles, etc. passed in the legislation
- The County and municipalities will continue to work with businesses on the license waiver and potential reimbursement process
  - The City of Gunnison is pursuing a regional grant to be able to provide more funding for the Dining Dollars program. Additional program expansion would only apply to restaurants within City limits.