



San Juan County Colorado Office of Emergency Management

Release date: 8/28/20
Release Number: SJC_026

Public Information Officer: DeAnne Gallegos
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PRESS RELEASE: COVID-19 outbreak identified in San Juan County

SAN JUAN COUNTY COLORADO: On Friday August 28th, 2020 San Juan County Public Health announces a COVID-19 outbreak connected to a Silverton business. The SJCPH Department is currently taking actions to isolate the outbreak.

Silverton, CO. Friday, August 28th, San Juan County Public Health (SJCPH) is reporting an outbreak of COVID-19, originating from a Silverton business along with a separate group of individuals who tested positive. A total of 4 persons tested positive. Anyone who may have been exposed to the COVID-19 positive individuals may be contacted by case investigators from San Juan County Public Health. As of Friday, 20 persons have been contacted who are connected to the cases.

“It is more important than ever to not let our guards down now that we are 6 months into the pandemic and being vigilant about the 5 commitments. It is also critical to have integrity when contacted by the contact tracing team and or to come forward if you know that you were exposed to a COVID-19 positive case. Those that may have been exposed need to know in order to protect themselves, their friends, families and our community. We are all in this together and protecting our community is our foremost priority. We appreciate all of the community members who have cooperated during this contact tracing case and have shown responsibility to ensure the health and well being for our town.”

Becky Joyce Director of San Juan County Public Health

What does an outbreak mean?

- Two or more COVID-19 cases confirmed in one business.
- Positive COVID-19 tests are confirmed.

What happens next?

- SJCPH opens a COVID-19 Case Investigation involving contact tracing.
- SJCPH personnel contact and interview individuals who have been exposed.

What is contact tracing?

- Contact tracing is when the local public health department interviews the original COVID-19 cases to see who they may have exposed.
- The tiers of people involved continue from there creating a spider web of connections.
- The size of the contact tracing case is yet to be determined and will change as the contact tracing case continues.



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How do I know if I am a part of the contact tracing case?

- SJCPH staff will contact you and inform you of the potential exposure.
- All information is kept confidential.

What happens if I have been exposed to a COVID-19 positive individual?

- You will need to quarantine for 2 weeks monitoring your symptoms daily.
- Take a COVID-19 test at our local health department.
- Isolate yourself from family members or the public for 2 weeks.
- Stay home and avoid others to reduce the chance of spreading COVID-19

San Juan County Public Health continues to emphasize the “5 Commitments to contain COVID-19” communicated in the Public Health Order 2020-04.

- I will maintain 6 feet of social distancing
- I will wash my hands often
- I will cover my face in public
- I will stay home when I am sick
- I will get tested immediately if I have symptoms

Ways that you can continue to protect yourselves, family members and community members:

- Stay home
- Wash your hands often
- Disinfect hard surfaces frequently
- Practice social distancing
- Wear a mask if you go out and are around people

If you become sick or are a close contact of a confirmed COVID-19 case:

- Self-Quarantine, if possible, keep yourself isolated from other people in your household.
- **Call/text 970-403-5237** or call **970-387-0242** to schedule a test as soon as possible.
- If you develop a fever, cough, or shortness of breath you may need to call your healthcare provider. But please **CALL** your healthcare provider first, do not show up unannounced. They will give you instruction on what to do next.