



UPDATE ON THE RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 OUTBREAK IN SAN JUAN COUNTY 8/29/2020

We understand the anxiety and need for information on the COVID-19 outbreak in Silverton/San Juan County. We have received many questions and concerns and want to address them immediately.

SJCPH response efforts to the COVID-19 outbreak in our community:

- 16 people tested using the Rapid test which enabled quick results and quick response, over 30 people were interviewed in the disease investigation and contact tracing process. 17 persons have been quarantined and isolated. 4 persons identified as positive. The business and community have been very supportive and cooperative in these efforts.
- Persons who tested positive are both seasonal and year round residents. Some had moderate to severe symptoms, and some were asymptomatic. At least one individual who tested positive also tested positive with antibodies in the Spring. It is important to recognize that the antibody testing does not indicate immunity and that you must still follow all of the suggested precautions.
- SJCPH will retest some of the quarantined individuals in 7 days who were close contacts of those that tested positive while they continue their quarantine for a total of 14 days.

What is the definition of an outbreak? (We use the CDPHE definitions for an “outbreak”)

- **Confirmed outbreak:** two or more people with confirmed cases of COVID-19 in a workplace/facility, with onset within 14 days.
- **Suspected outbreak:** two or more people with probable cases of COVID-19 (or one confirmed and one or more probable cases) in a workplace/facility, with onset within 14 days.

How many cases do we currently have in San Juan County?

- We had 2 previous confirmed cases of COVID-19 and now we have an additional 4 cases. Our total case count will be 5 for San Juan County because one individual is a seasonal resident and will be applied to an out of State case count.

What is the definition of a COVID-19 exposure?

- Having [close contact](#) (generally less than 6 feet for at least 15 minutes, depending on the exposure) without adequate personal protective equipment with a person with COVID-19 from two days before their symptom onset (or positive COVID-19 test) until they meet criteria to discontinue isolation.

What is the definition of a Silverton Business?

- A Silverton Business is an organization that employees from 1 to 100 plus people and has a local/federal/state tax ID and number



Why are you not naming the business, I could have been there recently and need to know?

- Not all Silverton businesses are open to the public or have public access to them while they are open and operating their business.
- In a small community like Silverton, naming the small business will unduly expose the privacy of employees.
- The SJCPH COVID-19 Response Team was able to conduct all of the contact tracing, therefore if you have not been contacted, you were not considered exposed. Routine visitors most likely would not have come into contact with this business.

Don't I have a right to know who in our community is sick in case I had contact with them?

- It is important to balance the legal right to privacy and confidentiality of individuals involved in this outbreak with public concerns. We provide actionable information to the public while maintaining privacy concerns of those involved in this incident.
- If the business was open to the public and had high volume of traffic it would then become necessary to name the business so the public at large would know if they were potentially exposed as a customer.
- SJCPH makes all efforts to ensure that the public is protected and that the outbreak does not spread. The process of contact tracing alerts all persons who have been exposed to a positive COVID-19 person.

But I am still worried that I could have been around those that work there?

- During the contact tracing case investigation, the employees or locals that are interviewed disclose who, what, where and when they had contact with someone.
- SJCPH will then contact those folks directly and let them know while asking them who they had contact with, etc etc down the line of people.

What if I have not been contacted by SJCPH contact tracing team but still have concerns?

- Contact SJCPH directly by phone or email with your specific questions
- For COVID19 TESTING Call **970-403-5237**. For general Public Health questions call **970-387-0242** or email San Juan County Public Health at info@sjcph.org

What are the 5 commitments to stopping the spread of COVID-19

- 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

This is a good time for businesses to reassess their operations to prevent an outbreak and understand that if you are spending time with people for 15 minutes or longer, within 6 feet, you will be quarantined if there is a positive test result. Keep your contacts minimal and maintain safe distance from others.

Follow these best practices. <https://covid19.colorado.gov/workplace-outbreak-guidance#PreventingOutbreaks>