



CENTRAL UTAH  
PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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COUNTY OFFICES

Juab	623-0696
East Millard	743-5723
West Millard	864-3612
Piute	577-2521
North Sanpete	462-2449
South Sanpete	835-2231
Sevier	896-5451
Wayne	836-1317

**\*\*Press Release\*\***

## Central Utah Public Health Department COVID-19 Response

The Central Utah Public Health Department (CUPHD) is working closely with the Utah Department of Health (UDOH) in monitoring and responding to the novel (new) coronavirus (COVID-19) respiratory illness that is currently spreading worldwide.

On Friday, March 6<sup>th</sup>, UDOH announced the first known case of COVID-19 in Utah. The patient is believed to have been exposed to COVID-19 while on a recent cruise aboard the Grand Princess cruise ship. **It's important to recognize this case does not represent community spread of COVID-19 in Utah.**

After returning to Utah, the patient visited their health care provider after developing symptoms consistent with COVID-19 infection. The patient's medical provider collected a clinical sample and submitted it to the Utah Public Health Laboratory (UPHL) for testing.

Because the sample was tested by UPHL, the case is considered to be a "presumptive positive" and further confirmatory testing will be carried out by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The patient is a resident of Davis County and is older than 60. To protect the patient's privacy, no further details about them will be released. The patient is recovering at home and is under a county-issued isolation order. The Davis County Health Department will monitor the patient, as well as any of the patient's close contacts.

Nathan Selin, the Director of the Central Utah Public Health Department, is working with the COVID-19 Community Task Force led by Lt. Governor Spencer Cox and other state and local health officials to monitor and respond to this situation. CUPHD is also working with local healthcare partners, school districts, and businesses in preparation for any local cases that may develop. This includes education and planning for these partners on what to do in case of a potential exposure in our health district. CUPHD is also serving as a local resource of information for the public, posting information on our social media platforms:

<https://www.facebook.com/Central-Utah-Public-Health-Department-CUPHD-198396823523542/>

<https://twitter.com/CUPHD> Instagram c.u.p.h.d #cuphd

The symptoms of COVID-19 are similar to what someone may be experiencing as the result of seasonal influenza – namely a fever, cough, or shortness of breath. These symptoms on their own are not worrisome and should not cause alarm. But if someone exhibits these symptoms who has recently traveled to areas with widespread COVID-19 illness or has been in close contact with a known positive case, that individual should immediately notify their health care provider, who will coordinate with the



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appropriate public health officials to determine next steps. There is currently no vaccine available for coronavirus and it is flu and respiratory disease season.

**CUPHD recommends getting vaccinated for influenza, and taking everyday preventive actions to stop the spread of germs including regular hand washing, covering coughs and sneezes with a tissue or an elbow, and staying home when you're sick.** All nonessential travel to areas affected by COVID-19 is also discouraged.

If you have a cough, or a fever, we would recommend that you stay home, and not go to work or school and possibly infect other persons, until you are symptom free. If you are concerned you have contracted COVID-19/coronavirus, do not go into a healthcare facility without contacting them via phone or telehealth prior to your visit. Unless you have recently traveled to an area with a reported outbreak of COVID-19, or been in close proximity to someone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19, or been on a cruise ship within the last 14 days, you are likely not infected with COVID-19. **There is no community spread of COVID-19 in Utah at this time.**

More information about novel coronavirus can be found at [coronavirus.utah.gov](https://coronavirus.utah.gov) or you can call the Utah Coronavirus Information Line at 1-800-456-7707.