



Montezuma County Plan for Sustainable Reopening – Phased Step Plan

Purpose

To develop a sustainable plan for reopening local businesses in an incremental fashion to prevent rapid spread of COVID-19, prevent a resurgence of disease in the community and allow our community to begin social and economic recovery.

Operational Plan

- County website will be available for public and State monitoring
- Provide Rabid testing ____ days/week – Dr. Aikin, once the hospital has the Max Analyzer, how many days a week is reasonable to provide testing?
- Monitor to be sure that newly reported cases of COVID-19 continue to decrease or flatten out at a level that does not exceed capacity to investigate – Bobbi, what is that threshold?
- All newly reported cases of COVID-19 will be investigated within 24 hours or receipt
- All cases will be adequately isolated for Bobbi, please insert the # of days as well as conditions for being released from isolation here with an objective of stopping transmission
- Maintain capacity of the health and medical system to meet the community's medical needs – Dr. Aikin can you please verify with the hospital and long-term care facilities what that level is, as well as how we will know if we come within 75% of that level and therefore need to implement more caution?
- Monitor outpatient and inpatient visits looking for any indication of increased community illness – Dr. Aikin, is that something the hospital and long term care facilities have the ability to do? If not, what should those visits look like?
- Maintain a PPE stock to respond to a community-wide outbreak spanning over an 8 week period – Jim Spratlen, please verify numbers for each agency (hospital, long-term care facilities, law enforcement and fire) help them to reach an 8 week stock pile and set up a system by which agencies can inform you if supplies are running low and they are no longer able to restock. Post that information here.
- Protect residents that may be at greatest risk for severity of the disease (Adults 60 years of age and older, people with underlying health conditions). Dr. Aikin, please consult with SWMH, long-term care facilities and home health providers to ensure what this looks like.
- All businesses will have a physical distancing and sanitation protocol in place prior to re-opening – Chambers, please begin pushing the message immediately that businesses will need to develop physical distancing and sanitizing protocols
- Behavioral health needs of our community will continue to be met – Axis, Haley or Jeff, please add anything that needs to be considered
- Partner with CDPHE and serve as a model to be shared with other jurisdictions

Background

This plan is base upon Public Health Principles for a Phased Reopening During COVID-19 –PUBLISHED BY John Hopkins, Bollmberg School of Public Health, Center for Health Security. Further below is described



a phased lifting low risk restrictions that may also have a high benefit to the community. This phased approach is in alignment with the approach used by other local public health agencies.

The Public Health Principles for a Phase Reopening During COVID-19 outlines the following five triggers to be met prior to lifting restrictions: *Below are the five triggers as well as Dr. Aikin's comments, my comment appear un-italicized in red.*

1. *"The number of new cases has declined for at least 14 days."*

a. The occurrence of new cases in our county has been relatively flat, thanks to the measures related to physical distancing and stay at home. In addition, the excellent contact tracing done by the staff at Montezuma County Health Department has quickly identified and quarantined infected individuals. – This is great first step. At the time of this writing, April 3, 2020 was the greatest jump in cases for Montezuma County. On that day we went from three (3) cases to six (6). It has been 17 days since that spike.

2. *"Rapid diagnostic testing capacity is sufficient to test, at minimum, all people with COVID-19 symptoms, as well as close contacts and those in essential roles."*

a. WE ARE NOT THERE YET. There is currently no rapid testing available in southwestern Colorado. Rapid testing means having the COVID test result available within a few hours. Currently, all testing at Southwest Health System and Cedar Diagnostic laboratories is being sent to reference labs out of the area, with average result time of 3-5 days. The situation in surrounding counties is currently the same.

b. Southwest Health System is ready and anxious to begin rapid testing as soon as we receive the BD MAX analyzer and sufficient test kits to use in that machine. Results from this would be available in 2-3 hours. Southwest Health placed a purchase order for the analyzer and test kits several weeks ago. Funds have been raised locally to pay for that. The device is in short supply and high demand. The manufacturer, Becton, Dickinson, and Company, has promised that we are "high on the priority list" to receive it. They hold regular "allocation meetings" to determine who will receive the next available supply of these devices. After their allocation meeting on April 10, an email from BD stated, "We had hoped for allocation of a MAX System this week but unfortunately that did not happen. Knowing the vital need for COVID-19 testing on the Western Slope, Cortez and surrounding communities we wanted to ensure full transparency at this juncture. During our call yesterday afternoon, our west area vice president notified us that it is unlikely we'll learn of next allocation until the week of 4/27."

What can be done about this? Perhaps nothing but patience, however I encourage each of our local governments to contact BD within the next few days to voice the urgency of having this device in our community. Its use is essential to a successful reopening of our economy. Some talking points should include:

Montezuma County has devised a plan for testing and phased reopening of our economy based on guidance from CDC, The American Enterprise Institute, Duke Center for Health Policy, and Johns Hopkins School of Public Health. Rapid testing capability is essential to that plan.



There are more than 200 residents of skilled nursing and assisted living facilities in our county. Rapid COVID-19 testing is a critical component to maintain the health of that extremely vulnerable group.

There is no other source for rapid COVID-19 testing in southwestern Colorado.

The name of the lab analyzer is BD MAX. In your statement, please indicate that we need "at least 1000" test kits to start. We have ordered more than that, but these are in short supply and we do not expect to get all that we've ordered at first.

Contact James Thomas James.Thomas@bd.com. He is the sales specialist for Colorado, Utah, Nevada, and Wyoming. Ask that your statement be brought to the attention of the west area vice president. Other BD Executive Leadership names can be found at <https://www.bd.com/en-us/company/executive-leadership>

I have previously spoken directly with Representative Tipton and others for assistance, but at this point your contact directly with BD may be the most helpful. Feel free to reach out to others as well.

I will have a letter ready for the BOCC to sign at their regular meeting on Tuesday, April 21, 2020. I encourage all other entities to get this done as quickly as possible.

Dr. Aikin, please keep us apprised of shipping. Also, you mentioned to pressure for at least 1,000 tests. Is that enough and at what point do you need to reorder. What number of tests would be critically low enough that you would need to consider pulling back? How much lead time will be needed to replace inventory?

All, please be aware that once the machine is here, it still must be calibrated.

3. "The healthcare system is able to safely care for all patients, including having appropriate personal protective equipment for healthcare workers."

a. Southwest Health System and other healthcare providers and agencies in our county have put a great deal of effort into preparation to meet the challenge of many ill persons. We are doing our very best to be ready, but a surge in cases would put a significant strain on our ability. Our reopening plan will need to have the ability for pullback if a sudden increase in cases occurs.

John Baxter, please build in a clause that will allow the County to pull back if necessary. Dr. Aikin, please tell us what the trigger point for pulling back will be. The County should be prepared to fire a warning if we hit 75% of that number.

4. "There is sufficient public health capacity to conduct contact tracing for all new cases and their close contacts."

a. The Montezuma County health Department has done an exceptional job at contact tracing for the cases so far identified here. An increase in cases will require more resources for that. We need to be ready to ramp up our capacity for contact tracing quickly.

Bobbi, what do you need in order to be ready?

5. "These decisions will need to be accompanied by clear and transparent communication to gain community engagement around the greatly anticipated re-openings. Individuals, businesses, and



communities have a role to play in taking actions to protect themselves and those around them during this time.” ... “The results of reopening decisions will take 2 to 3 weeks to be reflected in those [case] numbers. If case counts, hospitalizations, and deaths go up in that time, further actions in reopening should be paused, and steps should be taken to get control of the rising numbers.”

a. We need to agree to a plan and then be unified in our support for it, with flexibility if case numbers rise unacceptably.

Hopefully by the time this document is finished, everyone involved will be on board.

Phase 1 – Lifting restrictions that have low risk for community spread of COVID-19 and have medium to high benefit for the residents of Montezuma County

- Limitations on Public Private Gatherings/Congregations
 - Allow for conditional opening of non-critical, non-essential, non-governmental businesses in Montezuma County
 - Continue to implement physical distancing protocols prior to re-opening
 - Clear expectations of employees and customer, including:
 - Protecting employee health
 - Preventing crowds of patrons/clients greater than ten (10) in number
 - Ensuring effective distancing of six (6) feet
 - Implement or maintain physical barriers for high-contact settings (e.g. cashiers)
 - Utilize face cloth coverings for employees whose duties include close contact with members of the public
 - Encourage public to wear masks in businesses where it is possible
 - Increasing sanitization
 - Preventing unnecessary contact
 - Reducing exposures during transportation
 - Implement no-touch payment where possible
 - Continue to limit non-essential travel
 - Where possible, include symptom screening for employees
 - Consider allowing restaurants to allow ten (10) dine-in guests or fewer (physically distances) with curbside pick-up and delivery still available
 - Restaurants already comply with current health code standards which include proper use of chemical solutions to properly sanitize all surfaces
 - If a Restaurant can provide for physical distancing with ten (10) or fewer guests with greater than six (6) feet between tables
 - Have wait staff wear face masks
 - Ask patrons to wear masks before and after meal
 - If restaurants are unable to keep full staffing, they will be unable to have their PPP loans (if they got them forgiven). It is a standard they have to meet.
 - Can the County help restaurants that can meet these standards appeal to CDPHE for an exemption



- All businesses will work these into their plans to reopen regardless of opening to the public or not
- Businesses should post physically on site the expectations for their employees and patrons/clients
- Businesses should post these to their websites if they have them
- These signs will give businesses the ability to self-enforced if violations are committed or complaints are received
- For businesses not open to the public, staff limitation should consider appropriate physical distancing and sanitizing
- Telework is encouraged where possible and efficient
- Businesses that are deemed critical or governmental as outlined in the State Public Health Order 20-24, will continue to operate as indicated
- Businesses and residents should understand the expectations for physical distancing:
 - Crowd Control – what number of people per square foot of store/office space will allow a business appropriate distancing of six (6) feet? If this cannot be accomplished, can barriers be installed?
 - Face coverings guidance will also be provided and include where they are recommended, if and when they are required, and if they are not necessary
 - Alternative models for delivery of goods is still encouraged, e.g. online purchasing with home-delivery or curbside pick-up.
 - Examples and best-practices of how businesses have already completed the social distancing protocol can be made available to assist others developing their protocol. **Melissa Mathews, some places, such as J Fargo's and some of the supermarkets have good plans, can you see if they will share?**

Recreation

- Maintain physical distancing: six (6) feet for walkers and hikers, fifteen (15) feet for runners and thirty (30) feet for bikers
- Allow the opening of outdoor recreation facilities where adequate controls can be implemented to ensure physical distancing and prevent close gatherings of greater than 10.
- Entities managing such lands will have the authority to implement measures necessary to ensure physical distancing including reducing crowding and other measures that further reduce risk of transmission of COVID-19. This may include, but is not limited to restricting numbers of entrants, closing areas as appropriate to vehicular access, or to public access.
- Consider restrictions to maintain restrooms.

Ongoing Prohibitions

- Businesses and Recreation Facilities will only be prohibited from beginning phased re-opening based upon epidemiological evidence of risk of transmission such as, populations that may be at higher risk for severe disease, or are unable to limit gathering or congregating sizes.
 - Sites that may be unable to control interactions between people may be playgrounds, basketball courts, etc.
 - Services to high risk populations may be facilities such as senior centers



Health Care

Health care facilities are best informed to make their own decisions with trigger points of how and when to allow visitors and elective procedures.

Other Considerations

- Large venues (movie theaters, bowling allies, sporting venues, places of worship) may be able to operate IF strict physical distancing practices are possible and enforced
- Gyms may be able to operate IF strict physical distancing and sanitizing practices are possible and enforced

Phase 2 I believe there needs to be community input about what would trigger the response to be able to move to another phase before I spend much time detailing what that might look like. Dr. Aikin and Bobbi, please provide guidance on what triggers would allow further loosening. We need very specific triggers so we have a goal that the whole community knows that we are trying to hit. I feel assured that the community will work very hard to hit a goal.

- **Public Gatherings**
 - Allow for gatherings of no more than fifty (50) people and maintain physical distancing as much as possible
- **Businesses**
 - Non-essential travel may resume
 - Follow guidance for number of personnel in buildings base upon square footage
 - Maintain six (6) foot physical distance in common areas where employees are likely to congregate
 - Continue to consider accommodate for vulnerable populations



Montezuma County Business Social Distancing Protocol
for each facility or work site

Business Name:

Facility Address:

Approx. gross square footage of space open to the public:

Businesses should implement all applicable measures listed below, and be prepared to explain why any measure that is not implemented is inapplicable to the business.

Signage

- ☐ Signs have been placed at each public entrance of the facility or work site to inform all employees and customers that they should: avoid entering the facility or location if they have a cough or fever; maintain a minimum six-foot distance from one another; sneeze and cough into a cloth or tissue or, if not available, into one's elbow; and not shake hands or engage in any unnecessary physical contact. *[sign attached]*
- ☐ A copy of this Social Distancing Protocol has been placed at each public entrance to the work site.

Measures To Protect Employee Health (check all that apply to the facility or work site)

- ☐ Everyone who can carry out their work duties from home has been directed to do so.
- ☐ Discussions have taken place with employees about the fact that older adults and those with chronic medical conditions may be at higher risk for serious illness. Options have been explained to high risk employees, including ways to minimize face-to-face interactions, maintaining six feet of distance from other people, remote work if possible, and leave policies for employees who choose not to come to work.
- ☐ All employees have been told not to come to work if sick (including any of the following: headache, sore throat, fever, dry cough, recent inability to taste and smell, shortness of breath, ear aches, body aches, diarrhea, fatigue, vomiting, and abdominal pain).



☐ If able, symptom checks are being conducted before employees may enter the work site. [template attached]

☐ Copies of this Protocol have been distributed to all employees.

☐ Optional — Describe other measures:

Measures To Keep People At Least Six Feet Apart (check all that apply to the facility or work site)

☐ All employees have been instructed to maintain at least six feet of distance from customers and each other (employees may momentarily come closer when needed to accept payment, deliver goods or services, or when otherwise unavoidable).

☐ All desks, individual work stations, or work areas are separated by at least six feet.

☐ Tape or other markings have been placed at least six feet apart in customer line areas inside the store and on sidewalks to public entrances with signs directing customers to use the markings to maintain distance.

☐ Order areas are separated from delivery areas to prevent customers from gathering.

☐ Optional — Describe other measures:

Measures To Prevent Crowds From Gathering: (check all that apply to the facility or work site)

☐ The number of customers in the store at any one time is limited to _____, which allows for customers and employees to easily maintain at least six-foot distance from one another at all practicable times.

☐ An employee is monitoring the door to ensure that the maximum number of customers in the facility set forth above is not exceeded.

☐ Optional—Describe other measures:



Measures To Increase Sanitization (check all that apply to the facility or work site)

- ☐ Hand sanitizer, soap and water, or effective disinfectant is available to the public and employees at or near the entrance of the facility or work site, at checkout counters, workstations, and anywhere else where people have direct interactions. Location(s) include:

- ☐ Disinfecting wipes or spray that is effective against COVID-19 are available near workstations and all high-contact surfaces (including payment portals, carts, baskets, pens, shared tools, heavy equipment, etc.).

Location(s) include:

- ☐ Employee(s) have been assigned to disinfect all high-contact surfaces frequently.

- ☐ Break rooms, bathrooms, and other common areas are being disinfected on the following schedule:

- ☐ Break Rooms
☐ Bathrooms
☐ Other

- ☐ Optional — Describe other measures:

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Measures To Prevent Unnecessary Contact (check all that apply to the facility or work site)

- ☐ Contactless payment systems have been provided or, if not feasible, payment systems are sanitized regularly. Describe:

- ☐ Curb-side drop-off/pick-up of products is available.

- ☐ People are prevented from self-serving any items that are food-related (including bulk food, plates, cups, lids, etc.).

- ☐ Optional—Describe other measures (e.g. providing senior-only hours):



Measures To Reduce Exposures in Employee Transportation (check all that apply to the facility or work site)

- ☐ Hand sanitizer is used by each passenger when entering the vehicle.
- ☐ Passengers sit in locations to maximize the distance between one another and the driver.
- ☐ Passengers will wear a non-medical, cloth face-covering when in a vehicle.
- ☐ Windows will remain open and ventilation is increased.
- ☐ All high-contact surfaces of the vehicle are disinfected at the end of each day.

Any additional measures not included here should be listed on separate pages, which the business may attach to this document.

You may contact the following person with any questions or comments about this protocol:

Name:

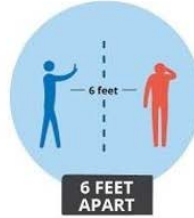
Phone number:

This business is complying with Colorado and Montezuma County Public Health Orders

Please observe the following rules:



Avoid this area if you have a cough or fever or are otherwise experiencing symptoms of the virus



Maintain a minimum six-foot distance between you and others



Sneeze or cough into a tissue, or into your elbow; place used tissue in the trash



Do not shake hands or engage in unnecessary physical contact with others

Thank you for respecting these rules to protect everyone's health.

Este negocio cumple con las órdenes de Salud Pública de Colorado y del condado de Montezuma

Please observe the following rules:



Evite esta área si tiene tos o fiebre o si experimenta síntomas del virus.



Mantenga una distancia mínima de seis pies entre usted y otras personas.



Estornude o tosa. en un pañuelo de papel o en el codo; coloque los pañuelos usados en la basura



No dé la mano a otros ni participe en contacto físico innecesario con otras personas

Gracias por respetar estas reglas para proteger la salud de todos.



Daily Symptom Check-In

If symptoms are reported, please stay home, isolate yourself from other family members, and call your medical provider

Employer Name:

Date:

[illegible]