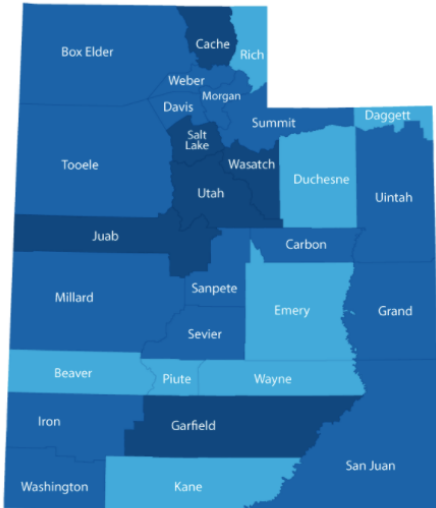


House Majority
State of Utah

LEGISLATIVE NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 47 • OCTOBER 12-16, 2020



High Level of Transmission
Moderate Level of Transmission
Low Level of Transmission

[Transmission index by county \(PDF\)](#)

[Health guidance for all levels \(PDF\)](#)

Counties in High Level of Transmission

Masks required.

Cache
Garfield

Juab
Salt Lake

Utah
Wasatch

Counties in Moderate Level of Transmission

Masks directed by public health until 10/29.

Box Elder
Carbon
Davis
Grand
Iron

Millard
Morgan
San Juan
Sanpete
Sevier

Summit
Tooele
Uintah
Washington
Weber

Counties in Low Level of Transmission

Masks strongly recommended.

Beaver
Daggett
Duchesne

Emery
Kane
Piute

Rich
Wayne

TRANSMISSION INDEX

This week the Governor announced a change in how Covid cases are transmitted throughout the state. The new system clarifies the public health standards used to determine which counties are placed on a low, moderate or high covid transmission. Speaker Wilson issued the following statement regarding the new Transmission Index:

“As COVID-19 cases have risen sharply across our state, it has become evident that the color-coded system implemented during the first weeks of the pandemic was no longer meeting the needs of the ongoing response. The new Transmission Index is data driven and sets statewide standards while empowering local elected and health officials to tailor restrictions to address local needs. Most importantly, this places responsibility for our state’s response with each of us individually. By showing where we are and what it will take for restrictions to be relaxed, we should all be eager to do our part as individuals, families, and businesses to drive our case rate as low as possible.”

You can learn more about the Transmission Index at coronavirus.utah.gov

HOUSE MAJORITY
NEWSLETTER

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WHAT IS THE REVISED PLAN?

The revised plan designates counties into high, moderate or low categories based on infection/transmission rates. Counties will be required to follow different guidelines under each level. The initial county designations are as follows:

HIGH: Cache, Garfield, Juab, Salt Lake, Utah and Wasatch

MODERATE: Box Elder, Carbon, Davis, Grand, Iron, Millard, Morgan, San Juan, Sanpete, Sevier, Summit, Tooele, Uintah, Washington, and Weber

LOW: Beaver, Daggett, Duchesne, Emery, Kane, Piute, Rich, Wayne

EACH COUNTY'S DESIGNATION WILL BE DETERMINED BY THE FOLLOWING



All counties can change designations but must remain in the higher category for a minimum of two (2) weeks. All county testing and transmission rates will be reviewed by the state of Utah on a weekly basis and their individual designation will be adjusted accordingly

The primary restriction to be imposed by the revised plan relates to social gatherings (including indoor and outdoor events where social distancing cannot be observed) and mask wearing requirements within businesses. These standards have been largely simplified in comparison to previous requirements under the color-coded system.

POLICY PRIORITY- WORKFORCE



In an effort to better align the needs of Utah's workforce with Utah's education system, lawmakers worked to combine Utah's System of Higher Education and Utah's System of Technical Colleges into one unified board. It allows students to earn certificates and degrees across postsecondary institutions with ease, benefitting both students and employers.

Amidst the COVID-19 pandemic and economic downturn, the Utah Legislature with the Utah Department of Workforce Services, allocated \$1 million of CARES Act grants to meet the needs of Utah's workforce. Referred to as Talent Ready Utah grants, these funds were designed to create talent pipelines for high-demand, high-wage occupations. This program aligns with the Legislature's strategy of combining technical and higher education that is responsive to the needs of the state's workforce. Grants were given with a focus on increasing the number of employers investing in providing high-quality, work-based learning opportunities and developing a pipeline of talent.

INTERIM MEETINGS

Lawmakers will be meeting for interim committees next week. Members of the public will be able to electronically attend the committee meetings, eliminating the need to submit a request in advance in order to attend and provide public comment. A member of the public may now join the electronic meeting without providing any notice. They may indicate their participation during the public comment portion by simply clicking on the button to 'raise your hand.' Individuals may also watch committee meetings to see presentations live.

Legislative proceedings will continue to be live-streamed, recorded, and shared publicly on le.utah.gov. Additional information for participating in interim committee meetings can be found on the legislative website [here](#), and a step-by-step guide can be found [here](#).



ELECTION UPDATE

GENERAL ELECTION
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2020

POLLS ARE OPEN FROM 7:00 A.M. TO 8:00 P.M. ON ELECTION DAY
BALLOTS BEGIN BEING MAILED OCTOBER 13

UTAH'S OFFICIAL VOTER INFORMATION PAMPHLET

Note:
This electronic version of the voter information pamphlet contains general voting information for all Utah voters. To view voting information that is specific to you, visit vote.utah.gov, enter your address, and click on "Sample Ballot, Profiles, Issues."

★ For audio and braille versions of the voter information pamphlet, please visit blindlibrary.utah.gov.

VOTE
VOTE.UTAH.GOV

Ballots were mailed out this week! To see all the candidates that are running and see Utah's Official Voter Information Pamphlet, click [here](#). Be sure to vote early. Many areas of Utah have been voting by mail for over 2 decades. It is simple, easy, and safe.

COVID-19 UPDATE

Monday, October 12

- 78,723 positive cases, an increase of 1,105 from the previous day
- 5,286 new tests administered
- 183 current hospitalizations
- 482 total deaths, 4 more than the previous day
- 57,965 recovered cases
- 13.6% positive rate

Tuesday, October 13

- 87,819 positive cases, an increase of 987 from the previous day
- 8,801 new tests administered
- 249 current hospitalizations
- 522 total deaths, which is 6 more than the previous day
- 64,583 recovered cases
- 13.8% positive rate

Wednesday, October 7

- 88,963 positive cases, an increase of 1,144 from the previous day
- 8,955 new tests administered
- 259 current hospitalizations
- 527 total deaths, 5 more than the previous day
- 59,289 recovered cases
- 13.8% positive rate



Thursday, October 15

- 90,461 positive cases, an increase of 1,498 from the previous day
- 7,315 new tests administered
- 258 current hospitalizations
- 529 total deaths, 2 more than the previous day
- 66,683 recovered cases
- 13.9% positive rate

Friday, October 16

- 91,957 positive cases, an increase of 1,496 from the previous day
- 9,307 new tests administered
- 290 current hospitalizations
- 537 total deaths, 8 more than the previous day
- 68,092 recovered cases
- 13.8% positive rate

Utah's 7-day rolling average for positive tests is 1,224 per day.

The rolling 7-day average for percent of positive laboratory tests is 13.8%.



UNEMPLOYMENT UPDATE

Below is the latest news release from the Department of Workforce Services on Utah's unemployment insurance claims. A few points to highlight from last week (October 4-10):

- Traditional unemployment insurance new claims increased by 5.3% from the previous week to 2,744 claims
- Pandemic Unemployment Assistance new claims decreased by 3.5% from the previous week to 713 claims
- Extended Unemployment Claims decreased by 2.4% from the previous week to 1,201 claims
- Total new claims for all three programs ended the week at 4,658 (see claim graph below) Combined weekly claims for all three programs was at 37,571
- Total combined numbers from March 15 to October 10
 - New claims: 319,955
 - Benefits paid: \$1,552,576,352 (includes Lost Wages Assistance payments)



We've seen new claims plateau over the last month. Though this has allowed some stabilization in the workload, it is nearly four times more than what we experienced last year at this time. Weekly claims continue to drop, which is a positive sign of people leaving unemployment for new employment opportunities.

Visit the "hot job" web portal at jobs.utah.gov.

PODCAST- AMENDMENT G

Representative Mike Shultz joins us on the show this week to explain Constitutional Amendment G and why it is on the ballot this year. Click [here](#) to listen



JUDGES ON THE BALLOT



Across Utah, 59 judges will be on the ballot this November. Though sometimes overlooked, the question of whether or not to retain a judge in office is an important one. The Judicial Performance Evaluation Commission (JPEC) helps citizens cast informed votes by providing valid information about the judges appearing on their ballots. Please visit judges.utah.gov to learn more.