

House Majority  
State of Utah

# LEGISLATIVE NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 48 • OCTOBER 19-23, 2020



## HALLOWEEN GUIDELINES

With Halloween coming up next week the CDC has released new guidelines to help keep everyone safe during the holiday. There are guidelines for trick or treating, hosting parties and going to other activities. Some guidelines include:

- Stay at least 6 feet away from others.
- Wait to go up to a door if there is already a group there.
- Don't stay at any one house for more than a few minutes.
- Don't let your kids eat their candy before they get home. When you get home, you can wipe the wrappers off with a disinfecting wipe.

For a complete list of all the guidelines, click [here](#).

HOUSE MAJORITY  
NEWSLETTER

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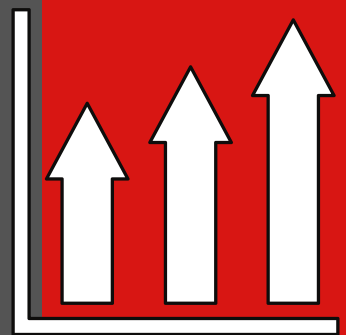
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# POLICY PRIORITY- ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND EMPLOYMENT

Utah started out the year with an impressive unemployment rate of 2.5% in January 2020. Though the global pandemic has hit the state hard, as it did everywhere else, Utah has been able to stay afloat and keep its citizens employed. Currently, Utah's unemployment rate sits at 4.1%, less than half the national unemployment rate.

During the July Special Session, the Utah Legislature passed HB 5010, creating grants for struggling businesses, and helping provide economic stability to the country. Additionally, the Legislature passed a bill allocating an additional \$300 a week for those receiving unemployment benefits. Despite these uncertain and economically challenging times, Utah's strong and robust economy still stands as an example to the rest of the nation. Forbes recently published the article, "What Utah Can Teach Other States About Surviving a Recession," praising Utah for its fiscal responsibility and economic planning.

Utah has received many top rankings for its business-friendly environment and strong economic outlook. We enjoy a strong and diverse economy. The Utah Legislature has targeted and created policies to drive growing industries including aerospace and defense, information technology, life sciences, financial services, manufacturing and distribution, and outdoor recreation. By promoting these industries, and many others, Utah will be able to expand talent and capital, increase industry expertise, drive research, promote trade, improve supply chains, and create a place for small and large businesses alike.



# COVID-19 UPDATE

Monday, October 19

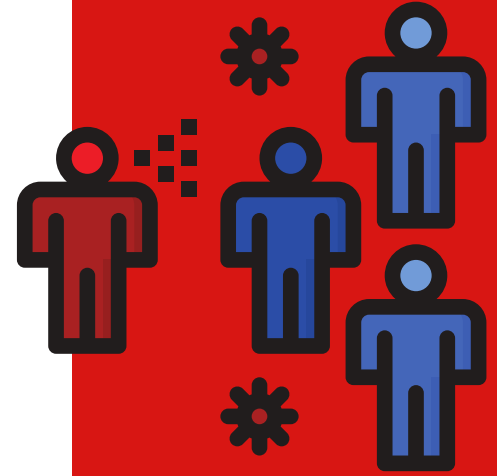
- 95,562 positive cases, an increase of 1,168 from the previous day
- 6,721 new tests administered 288 current hospitalizations
- 546 total deaths, 3 more than the previous day
- 71,035 recovered cases
- 14.4% positive rate

Tuesday, October 20

- 96,643 positive cases, an increase of 1,081 from the previous day
- 5,765 new tests administered 291 current hospitalizations
- 551 total deaths, which is 5 more than the previous day
- 71,693 recovered cases
- 14.8% positive rate

Wednesday, October 21

- 98,006 positive cases, an increase of 1,363 from the previous day
- 7,571 new tests administered
- 314 current hospitalizations
- 557 total deaths, 6 more than the previous day
- 72,606 recovered cases
- 15.1% positive rate



Thursday, October 15

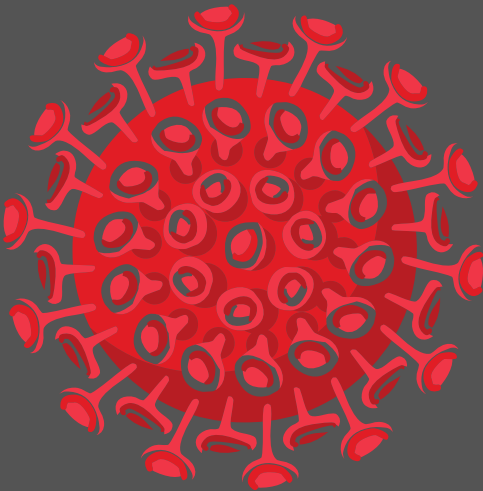
- 90,461 positive cases, an increase of 1,498 from the previous day
- 7,315 new tests administered
- 258 current hospitalizations
- 529 total deaths, 2 more than the previous day
- 66,683 recovered cases
- 13.9% positive rate

Friday, October 16

- 101,509 positive cases, an increase of 1,496 from the previous day
- 8,454 new tests administered
- 313 current hospitalizations
- 537 total deaths, 4 more than the previous day
- 68,092 recovered cases
- 15.8% positive rate

Utah's 7-day rolling average for positive tests is 1,355 per day.

The rolling 7-day average for percent of positive laboratory tests is 15.8%.



# UNEMPLOYMENT UPDATE

Below is the latest news release on Utah's unemployment insurance claims from the Department of Workforce Services.

A few points to highlight from last week (October 11-17):

- Traditional unemployment insurance new claims decreased by 8.9% from the previous week to 2,501 claims
- Pandemic Unemployment Assistance new claims decreased by 1.3% from the previous week to 704 claims
- Extended Unemployment Claims decreased by 11.8% from the previous week to 1,059 claims
- Total new claims for all three programs ended the week at 4,264 (see claim graph below) Combined weekly claims for all three programs was at 34,579
- Total combined numbers from March 15 to October 17
  - New claims: 324,705
  - Benefits paid: \$1,564,408,203 (includes Lost Wages Assistance payments)



Despite the demand for this benefit and the dollar amount that has been paid out, Utah's Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund remains solvent. This is not the case for more than 20 states. As more people come to the end of their unemployment benefits, our focus remains on connecting them to where the current job opportunities are right now. Next Thursday will be another statewide virtual job fair.

Visit the "hot job" web portal at [jobs.utah.gov](https://jobs.utah.gov).



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Utah House of  
Representatives

# PODCAST-NEW TRANSMISSION INDEX

Last week, Utah went through a major change in the way the state manages COVID-19. Rich Saunders joins the show to help us understand these new changes and why they were necessary. Listen [here](#).

## LEVEL OF TRANSMISSION

HIGH

MODERATE

LOW

## ELECTION INFORMATION

Ballots have been mailed out! To see all the candidates that are running and see Utah's Official Voter Information Pamphlet, click [here](#). Many areas of Utah have been voting by mail for over 2 decades. It is simple, easy, and safe. This year, there are 7 constitutional amendments on the ballot. You can review these amendments in the voter information pamphlet, or listen to the podcast linked [here](#).



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