



3/31/20-- Uinta County COVID-19 Update

Trying to Flatten the Curve, While Still Preparing for Surge

Social distancing is our best strategy for slowing down the rate of infection to prevent overwhelming our healthcare providers, hospitals and medical supply stores (widely known as “flattening the curve.”)

If we can keep the number of new cases coming in at a slower rate, then our healthcare providers and clinics, the hospital, and the stock of all-important supplies can keep up.

[Governor Gordon has plead](#) with Wyomingites to stay home and step up the self-isolation in order to accomplish this flattening. Three statewide public health closure orders have gone out to provide some firmness and support in keeping the rate slow.

Of course, locally, the same is asked of residents. While we all take personal responsibility for self-isolating to try to prevent it from happening, local hospitals and providers are beginning to change some practices to more closely reflect crisis mode in case it does.

These are some of the planning and preparatory measures being put in place to prepare for a surge in cases by decreasing risk to healthcare workers, conserving supply of the all-important Personal Protective Equipment (PPE,) and by ensuring a hospital ready to treat people who are very sick:

Testing: The supplies needed to test for COVID are limited. Providers are asked to make hard calls that balance testing adequately with conserving supplies. If you are experiencing symptoms, it is a good idea to call your healthcare provider so that they can determine the best course of care, and whether or not testing is required. The same principles will apply for those going to the ER.

Emergency Department & Hospital: Curbside service and triage has begun at Evanston Regional Hospital, where all patients will be able to reduce contact by going through a drive-up process. Based on initial assessment and condition, decisions will be made as to how to best treat and keep everyone at the lowest risk possible. Decisions to test will be made based on the same criteria that community clinical providers are referencing.

Use of Telemedicine: Most healthcare providers, including Evanston Regional Hospital’s Emergency Department are relying on technology to facilitate interactions between patients and healthcare personnel. There are various different platforms being used, but in one form another, a patient with a phone, or with a provided tablet will be able to have video dialogue with their provider to do initial assessments and determine best courses of future doctor-client interactions and treatment.

Calling 911: First Responders are here to help, and encourage the use of 911 for emergencies. For calls that aren’t immediate emergencies, there may be extra questions to determine symptoms and risk of having COVID-19. If you have concerns about

COVID-19 or think that you may have it, but aren't experiencing emergency symptoms (that might include, trouble breathing, persistent pain or pressure in the chest, new confusion or inability to rouse, and bluish lips or face,) please call your healthcare provider or utilize the drive-up services at ERH to determine best treatment options and need for testing.

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