



4/29/20-- Uinta County COVID-19 Update

CDC OFFERS WSH & COMMUNITY THE OPPORTUNITY TO DO A “POINT PREVALENCE SURVEY”

This Epidemiological Tool Will be Employed Friday

When the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) team visited the Wyoming State Hospital a week ago at the invitation of the Wyoming Department of Health, one of the options offered to support the community and the facility was a Point Prevalence Survey.

A Point Prevalence Survey provides a snapshot of a moment in time, and is generally used to get a better understanding of how much a certain disease is affecting people and circulating in a location. It involves testing a large number of people within a limited time period, such as 24 hours in this case.

CDC team members provided support for infection control procedures during last week’s visit, but also brought up the survey idea for greater data gathering and for an opportunity to know exactly how much and to what extent COVID-19 is present. The voluntary survey is a way CDC can support efforts and help inform decision-making and planning. Many other facilities and institutions across the country have and are conducting similar surveys during the COVID-19 outbreak.

Uinta County Public Health officials, as well as Wyoming State Hospital leadership welcome the opportunity.

Some staff and patients will be tested within a 24 hour period at the Wyoming State Hospital on Friday, May 1. The CDC team will provide supplies and conduct the testing. Samples will be sent to the Wyoming Public Health Laboratory, also part of the Wyoming Department of Health, for results.

The labor and supply-intensive process will not only be a help to the State Hospital and ensure that their procedures are protecting staff and patients, but will also provide a good picture of our community’s current experience with COVID-19. Because the Wyoming State Hospital employs many Evanston residents, the sample will provide important local insight, especially about individuals infected who aren’t exhibiting any symptoms.

Increased testing for COVID-19 (and therefore greater awareness of positive cases) is one of the goals or capacities needed to make informed decisions about the safety of further relaxing the virus mitigation strategies within the community. This will be a useful step in achieving more testing and more knowledge about our community’s status.

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