

# Teton County's Roadmap to Recovery: A Planning Framework for Public Health Guidance

A Framework for the General Public and Businesses and Organizations to Maximize Public Health Guidance during all Phases of the COVID-19 Response



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5-14-2020

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# Teton County COVID-19 Public Health Guidance

The Teton County’s Roadmap to Recovery: A Planning Framework for Public Health Guidance begins with the premise that every Teton County resident plays a role in Teton County’s recovery. Teton County Health Department will require residents to continue to take three major actions:

- **Follow public health orders, recommendations, directives, and guidelines**
- **Stay engaged with the economy**
- **Assist those in need**

This plan provides guidance to help Teton County transition through each phase of the COVID-19 response, as seen in Figure 1 below. This reactivation can only proceed if Teton County residents remain vigilant and continue to follow public health orders, recommendations, directives, and guidelines.

The Teton County Health Department has developed Teton County's Public Health Guidance. It provides Teton County businesses and residents with clarity and specifics about Teton County’s plan for a full health and economic recovery.

Figure 1. Phases of the COVID-19 response



**Goal: Provide Teton County residents and businesses with a clear and specific plan for Teton County's public health and economic recovery.**

# I. Building the Public Health Infrastructure

As we begin to gradually reopen the economy, a strong public health infrastructure will be essential. Critical decisions on reopening will require a step-by-step process to weigh the risks and benefits. The Teton County Health Department will take the lead in determining when, where, and how to gradually resume economic activities while also adhering to physical distancing or other mitigation measures based on the color-coded public health guidance. The Health Department will clearly and effectively communicate with businesses and the public to reduce the risk of outbreaks. The following are important steps to protect the public's health on this path to recovery.

- EXPAND TESTING CAPACITY AND MAKE TESTING WIDELY AVAILABLE
- STRENGTHEN PUBLIC HEALTH SURVEILLANCE TO UNDERSTAND THE SPREAD OF COVID-19 AND RAPIDLY DETECT OUTBREAKS
- INCREASE CAPACITY FOR CONTACT TRACING AND ISSUING ISOLATION AND QUARANTINE ORDERS
- ENSURE THE COUNTY'S HEALTHCARE SYSTEM CAN RESPOND TO POTENTIAL SURGES IN CASES
- PROTECT ESSENTIAL WORKERS AND HIGH-RISK POPULATIONS

# II. Creating and Executing a Plan to Gradually Reopen the Economy

## **STEP 1: DEVELOP A STRONG AND CLEAR COMMUNICATION AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT PLAN**

In a crisis, communication is not simply informing people about actions being taken by state and local officials. Communication is an integral part of the response itself. Effective communication encourages individuals, families, businesses, and neighborhood groups to take actions that protect themselves and their communities. Communication becomes even more important as we move toward reopening. There is a risk of misunderstanding and confusion by people who believe that the pace of change should be faster or slower. A critical element of communication is public engagement.

## **STEP 2: CREATE A FRAMEWORK FOR REOPENING**

The Teton County Health Department is well underway, in partnership with the Jackson Hole Chamber of Commerce, to develop a framework for thoughtful decision making on key factors to reopen the economy. This framework includes important public health factors such as:

- Communicating a consistent description of the ongoing challenge of COVID-19

- Providing evidence on the effectiveness of physical distancing measures to date
- Collecting data on the spread of COVID-19 in the community
- Emphasizing the importance of testing, contact tracing, and issuing isolation and quarantine orders
- Defining specific measures to assess readiness for reopening
- Establishing criteria to be used for moving between phases of response
- Determining how the County will assess for a resurgence of COVID-19
- Anticipating the potential necessity of returning to more strict public health measures

### **STEP 3: SET THE CRITERIA AND DEFINE THE STAGES FOR REOPENING**

Two essential elements of the County framework for reopening the economy are the criteria for moving between levels of public health guidance and determining the process by which Teton County will gradually expand allowable activities. With public input and engagement and informed by public health evidence and expertise, Teton County will begin to set these elements in place.

### **STEP 4: BUILD PARTNERSHIPS BETWEEN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS TO IMPLEMENT THE PLAN**

To effectively implement our framework, Teton County will partner with businesses and organizations in identifying what activities will be permitted at each stage, as well as creating mitigation measures to reduce the risk of activities in public settings. Clear communication of the next steps, rationale, and public health guidance as the State and County relax community-wide public health orders will allow individuals, families, businesses and organizations to take necessary actions to reduce risk and support a sustained and successful reopening process. Teton County will combine this public engagement with appropriate tools and mandates to ensure effective implementation.

### **STEP 5: PREPARE TO REASSESS AND IMPROVE THE PLAN FREQUENTLY**

The stepwise process of a phased reopening requires continuous examination and reevaluation. While baseline metrics are essential, new circumstances, science, technology, changing epidemiology and societal considerations will emerge that may necessitate recalibration. We will both communicate the need for this reassessment and more formally engage in review and improvement over time.

## **III. Teton County Public Health Guidance System**

Teton County faces the likely reality of significant economic disruption until herd immunity occurs or a vaccine and treatment are discovered. It is expected that there will be economic "starts and stops" as COVID-19 moves through our community. Without intervention, these interruptions will do tremendous harm to Teton County businesses, individuals, and families. For this reason, County leaders agree that the COVID-19 crisis is not a short-term problem, but rather a new risk Teton County must learn to manage.

Managing the public health risk requires Teton County to identify, contain, and mitigate the spread of the virus, while simultaneously reactivating the economy in a coordinated fashion. Assessment, testing

and proactive contact tracing will help guide this process. Using a color-coded health guidance system, Teton County can focus public health measures on specific areas.

The Teton County Health Department with input from the Teton County Economic Recovery Task Force has created a color-coded public health guidance system. It can be used in each of the COVID-19 emergency phases. The public health guidance system includes four levels of activity: red, orange, yellow, and green. Each level is guided by the metrics listed above so the Teton District Health Officer and the Teton County Health Department can safely determine when a different color of public health guidance applies. Teton County Residents and businesses should think of the public health guidance system as a dial that can be turned up or down based on the health risk.

Each level of the color-coded public health guidance will become progressively less restrictive and allows for more economic engagement. Every level protects the public's health. Red means high risk. Orange means moderate risk for the general public, except high-risk individuals. Yellow means low risk for the general public, except high-risk individuals. Green means a new normal risk for the general public, except high-risk individuals. In every color of the public health guidance, high-risk individuals operate under specific instructions issued by the Teton County Health Department, as seen in Appendix C- Guidance for High-Risk Individuals. It is possible that we will move back and forth throughout the colored guidance as COVID-19 continues to spread through our community. Figure 2 provides an explanation of the relationship between the economic phases and color-coded public health guidance. The color-coded public health guidance system was developed by the Teton County Health Department following the State of Utah's Economic and Health Recovery Plan. The Teton County's Road to Recovery Plan has three phases of the COVID-19 emergency (response, stabilization, and recovery) with an overlay of four color-coded public health guidance (red, orange, yellow, and green).

Figure 2. Color-coded public health guidance during COVID-19 in Teton County, WY.



Each color-coded level requires Teton County Residents to adhere to these rules of conduct: Common Sense and Personal Responsibility - The Teton County Public Health Guidance cannot anticipate every unique situation. Residents and businesses must take personal responsibility to be informed and take actions based on common sense and wise judgment that will protect the public's health and support economic reactivation.

**1. Protective Hygiene Standards and Physical Distancing Measures** – Teton County Residents must practice protective hygiene and disinfection regimens to minimize the risk of exposure to COVID-19. These include but are not limited to the following:

Strict Hygiene Standards, including:

- Wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds as frequently as possible
- Use hand sanitizer (at least 60% alcohol based) when soap and water are not available
- Cover coughs and sneeze into the sleeve or elbow, not hands

- Regularly disinfect high-touch surfaces (buttons, door handles, counters, etc.)
- Avoid touching your face
- Stay home when sick

**Physical Distancing Measures:**

- Wear a cloth face covering in public when you cannot maintain the 6-foot physical distance spacing
- Always maintain a 6-foot distance from other individuals when in public
- Refrain from shaking hands with other individuals
- Do not visit friends or family without urgent need
- Do not attend large gatherings
- Phone and video chats are encouraged in place of in-person meetings

**2. Follow Guidance** – Public health and economic opportunity are intrinsically linked. Teton County residents and businesses must follow the Teton County public health guidance for each color-coded level or risk backtracking and causing greater economic harm.

**3. High-risk Populations** – High-risk individuals and those around them are highly encouraged to follow a specific set of instructions issued by the Teton County Health Department. See Appendix C-Guidelines for High-Risk Individuals. the Minimum Public Health Guidance for Each Sector

With these rules of conduct in place please see Section V to see a table containing the minimum public health guidance for each sector as recommended by the Teton County Health Department.

**Response Phase:**

Red (High), please see Attachments A, B, and C for more specific guidance during these phases. The guidance will reflect the level of risk to the public’s health and may include the following at a minimum:

- Increased hygiene of staff and employees
- Cloth face coverings worn by all
- Physical distancing (separation of 6 feet or more)
- Required symptom checking and restriction of sick employees
- Increased cleaning and disinfecting procedures
- Required messaging
- Rotating staff schedules or teleworking



**Stabilization Phase:**

Orange & Yellow (Moderate and Low), please see Attachments A, B, and C for more specific guidance during these phases. The guidance will reflect the level of risk to the public’s health and may include the following at a minimum:

- Increased hygiene of staff and employees
- Cloth face coverings worn by all
- Physical distancing (separation of 6 feet or more)

- Required symptom checking and restriction of sick employees
- Increased cleaning and disinfecting procedures
- Required messaging
- Rotating staff schedules or teleworking

Different business sectors and organizations may present unique public health risks that are not addressed in the above minimum requirements. Teton County Health Department will seek additional input from business and organization sectors in the development of the Teton County Public Health Guidelines.

**Recovery Phase:**

Green (New Normal), please see Attachments A, B, and C for more specific requirements during this phase. The guidance will reflect the level of risk to the public’s health and may include the following at a minimum:

- Increased hygiene of staff and employees
- Restriction of sick employees
- Increased cleaning and disinfecting procedures
- Required messaging

Different business sectors and organizations may present unique public health risks that are not addressed in the above minimum requirements. Teton County Health Department will seek additional input from business and organization sectors in the development of the Teton County Public Health Guidelines.

## IV. Public Health Metrics

Teton County will need to attain specific metrics to proceed to the next color in the public health guidance. A data dashboard, which will be located on the [JH COVID website](#) will house this data. To go directly to the dashboard [click here](#). We will be reviewing the reported COVID-19 metrics to see if they are trending in an improving (green), stabilizing (yellow), or concerning (red) direction.

The current COVID-19 metrics are listed below. Additional metrics may be developed as we receive further guidance from the Wyoming Department of Health:

1. COVID-19 Metrics in Teton County

Case Identification:

- New Cases – Have there been fewer cases over time?
- Percent of Cases Attributed to Community Spread – Is the percentage the same or less?
- Percent of all Tests that are Positive – Is the percentage the same or less?

St. John's Health Hospital Capacity in Teton County:

- Total COVID-19 Admissions Reported by St. John's Health – Has there been a sustained reduction in total COVID-19 hospitalizations?

- St. John's Health Total Bed Availability – Is bed availability stable?
- St. John's Health Total ICU Bed Availability – Is ICU bed availability stable?

Example:

Metric	Concerning	Stabilizing	Improving
New Cases			
Community Spread			
Positive Tests			
Hospital Admissions			
Bed Availability			
ICU Bed Availability			

Other Metrics:

- Secure and distribute Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Inventory
  - Through the Strategic National Stockpile and trusted sources secure PPE and distribute to First Responders and other critical infrastructure
- Provide widespread active disease testing
  - Community goal is to test up to 100 symptomatic individuals per day
- Conduct case investigations and contact tracing
  - The Teton County Health Department is conducting proactive contact tracing and issuing isolation and quarantine orders
- Develop public health guidelines for the public, businesses, and organizations to follow when moving into different phases of the COVID-19 emergency
  - Development of a color-coded public health guidance system to protect the public's health

Example:

Metric	Not Available	Improving	In Place
PPE Inventory			
Testing Capacity			
Contact Tracing Capability			
Public Health Guidelines			

## V. Table of the Minimum Public Health Guidance for Each Sector

This table has been replaced by Appendix B.

[Appendix A: Guidelines for the General Public](#)

[Appendix B: Guidelines for Businesses and Organizations- Coming Soon](#)

[Appendix C: Guidelines for High Risk Individuals](#)