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## UT follow-up /CDC / Bear River HD Intro

2 messages

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Grant, Gail B. (CDC/DDID/NCHHSTP/DTE) <gab2@cdc.gov>  
To: Lloyd Berentzen <lloydber@brhd.org>, Todd Barson <tbarson@brhd.org>  
Cc: "Grant, Gail B. (CDC/DDID/NCHHSTP/DTE)" <gab2@cdc.gov>

Wed, Jun 3, 2020 at 5:15 PM

Todd-

I note that Angela has done the hand-off. It is my pleasure to work with both of you as we begin the process to identify staff to deploy to UT to assist with the outbreak. I have a call in to my team lead, and we will begin work on this.

In an effort to expedite, the ask (specifically) should be in writing from the state. We have captured most of this, but during our call, I indicated that I we would need it summarized in writing so that we can submit coming from the state. When you complete (see below), send to me at gab2@cdc.gov; bullets are fine.

Feel free to add anything else. In the meantime, we will put you in touch with someone from the TX and CO teams to talk about their experience, protocol followed, outcomes, other working with the plant.

Thank you,

Gail

### Briefly

Identify Problem (discuss issue at this plant, ongoing transmission, strained UT DPH staff, issues with testing, lab, other):

Gaps: Limited staff capacity

Where is the outbreak (name of plant/city)

Staff needed(epi, public health advisor, comm staff, lab support)

Duties of team / specify

Language Needed or special skills:

Who will lead the team (explain here that you will supervise team)

Is your health department practicing the guidelines- explain

Where will staff be placed, will there be work desk, computer, other tools:

When is staff needed/Length of time /#

What type of media assistance needed

Lab support?

Technical assistance: CDC staff who have been involved with same company in TX and Greeley, CO (lessons learned)

State curfew?

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**From:** Angela Dunn <angeladunn@utah.gov>

**Sent:** Wednesday, June 3, 2020 6:37 PM

**To:** Grant, Gail B. (CDC/DDID/NCHHSTP/DTE) <gab2@cdc.gov>; Lloyd Berentzen <lloydber@brhd.org>; Todd Barson <tbarson@brhd.org>

**Subject:** CDC / Bear River HD Intro

Gail, Lloyd, Todd --

Here is your e-intro. I'll step back. Todd/Lloyd, reach out to me if you need anything at all.

Thanks!

Angela

--

**Angela C. Dunn, MD MPH**

State Epidemiologist | Utah Department of Health

Office: 801-538-6226

*Please call my office or cell if you need assistance immediately.*

\*\*\*\*\* IMPORTANT MESSAGE \*\*\*\*\*

This message, including any attachments, may contain confidential information intended for a specific individual and purpose, and is protected by law. If you are not the intended recipient, delete this message, including from trash, and notify me by telephone or email.

If you are not the intended recipient, any distributions or copying of this message, or the taking of any action based on its content is strictly prohibited.

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Todd Barson <tbarson@brhd.org>

Wed, Jun 3, 2020 at 6:01 PM

To: "Grant, Gail B. (CDC/DDID/NCHHSTP/DTE)" <gab2@cdc.gov>

Cc: Lloyd Berentzen <lloydber@brhd.org>, Angela Dunn <angeladunn@utah.gov>, Angie White <awhite@brhd.org>

Thank you Gail. Below is the information you requested. Hope to hear from you soon...Todd

Identify Problem:

- Meat packing plant in northern Utah (Hyrum City).
- Employs 1500 people. Implementing several screening measures.
- COVID is still spreading through the meat packing plant.
- Anecdotal reports of employees being required to work when sick.
- Local emergency rooms are being used by employees seeking treatment for symptoms and looking for notes to take to their employer.
- Approaching 100 cases at the plant. Several other cases are associated with JBS in some way.
- Hourly wage workers don't have a lot of options for economic security outside of their job and are most likely not disclosing to JBS that they are ill.
- Two severe illnesses to date.
- Most workers socialize together outside of work. Hard to disentangle exposure from work and social situations.
- Contact tracing is already at capacity at local level. UDOH is at capacity to be able to help with this.

Gaps:

- Limited staff capacity.
- Small LHD with one full time epidemiologist and some part time epi workers.
- Refugee population creating language barriers. Majority of non-English speakers are Spanish speaking. Additional languages include Marshallese, Arabic, Karen, Tigre.

Where is the outbreak:

JBS Beef

410 N 200 W

Hyrum, UT 8431

Staff needed:

5 Mid Level Epidemiologist

Communications support (remotely)

Duties of team / specify:

- Acts as case lead investigators.
- Makes initial contacts with persons identified in EpiTrax as a COVID positive case.
- Conducts initial case interview of COVID positive persons.
- Identifies contacts of COVID positive individuals.
- Puts individuals in isolation/quarantine and educates them on importance and need to comply.
- Conducts initial interview with contacts OR forwards contact information to Contact Tracers for initial interviewing.
- Coordinates with Contract Tracers and Support Staff to identify any housing, food, medical, or other support needed.
- Accurately enters investigation data into EpiTrax.Coordinates with Investigation Team Lead

Language Needed or special skills:

- Spanish speaking.
- Additional languages include Marshallese, Arabic, Karen, Tigre
- Epi and investigation knowledge and experience.

Who will lead the team (explain here that you will supervise team):

Administrative: Todd Barson, Deputy Director. Todd will work with team members on the logistics of work space, IT needs, and schedules.

Epi Team: Angie White, Lead Epidemiologist. Angie will work with team members on the day to day investigations process.

Is your health department practicing the guidelines:

BRHD has put several infection control measures in place including: social distancing practices, work-from-home options, Zoom and Google Meet meetings instead of in person meetings, sanitizing schedule of high touch surfaces, symptom checking including temperature, curbside service for clients, and face coverings when good social distancing is not possible.

Where will staff be placed, will there be work desk, computer, other tools:

There will be a designated desk and work phone provided. Computers are limited. May be best if investigators can bring laptops. There may be some older PC systems available.

When is staff needed/Length of time /#



ASAP for 6 weeks

What type of media assistance needed:

- Assistance with messaging to disparate communities on protecting them self from exposure, social distancing, etc.
- Assistance with messaging to community and media about meat packing plant outbreak
- Assistance with handling the different messages coming from employees and employer regarding workplace practices.
- Lessons learned from similar situations (ie Greeley, Colorado plant)
- Talking points for a meat packing industry & covid-19.
- Press releases, social media, etc. we will take whatever they can provide.

Lab support?

- Will need to do some testing on employees (possibly 2 more rounds of 1500)
- BRHD coordinates labs and testing with UDOH mobile units.

Technical assistance:

- CDC staff who have been involved with same company in TX and Greeley, CO (lessons learned)
- Communications and media assistance as stated above
- COVID investigation advice and TA

State curfew:

There is no state or local curfew currently in place. No civil unrest episodes in Logan or Cache Valley area of Utah have occurred. At present, Salt Lake City curfew has been lifted and unrest incidents have subsided.

[Quoted text hidden]

--

Todd Barson, Deputy Director  
Bear River Health Department  
655 East 1300 North  
Logan, UT 84341

tbarson@brhd.org  
435-792-6511



Lloyd Berentzen &lt;lloydber@brhd.org&gt;

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**UT/HIGH/Deployment/**

1 message

**Grant, Gail B. (CDC/DDID/NCHHSTP/DTE)** <gab2@cdc.gov>

Wed, Jun 3, 2020 at 7:07 PM

To: Todd Barson &lt;tbarson@brhd.org&gt;, Lloyd Berentzen &lt;lloydber@brhd.org&gt;

Cc: "Dunn, Angela (CDC utah.gov)" &lt;angeladunn@utah.gov&gt;, "awhitejr4@comcast.net" &lt;awhitejr4@comcast.net&gt;, "Grant, Gail B. (CDC/DDID/NCHHSTP/DTE)" &lt;gab2@cdc.gov&gt;

Todd/Lloyd-

Made a few edits and have sent to the team lead and our field coordinator. It was my pleasure to speak with you guys; look forward to working to fulfill your ask. Please stand by.

Enjoy your evening.

Gail Burns-Grant

HD Liaison/Region 8

CDC/COVID-19

gab2@cdc.gov

**From:** Todd Barson <tbarson@brhd.org>**Sent:** Wednesday, June 3, 2020 8:01 PM**To:** Grant, Gail B. (CDC/DDID/NCHHSTP/DTE) <gab2@cdc.gov>**Cc:** Lloyd Berentzen <lloydber@brhd.org>; Dunn, Angela (CDC utah.gov) <angeladunn@utah.gov>; Angie White <awhite@brhd.org>**Subject:** Re: UT follow-up /CDC / Bear River HD Intro

Thank you Gail. Below is the information you requested. Hope to hear from you soon...Todd

Identify Problem:

- Meat packing plant in northern Utah (Hyrum City).
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#### Gaps:

- Limited staff capacity.
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- Refugee population creating language barriers. Majority of non-English speakers are Spanish speaking. Additional languages include Marshallese, Arabic, Karen, Tigre.

#### Where is the outbreak:

JBS Beef

410 N 200 W

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---

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Administrative: Todd Barson, Deputy Director. Todd will work with team members on the logistics of work space, IT needs, and schedules.

Epi Team: Angie White, Lead Epidemiologist. Angie will work with team members on the day to day investigations process.

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There will be a designated desk and work phone provided. Computers are limited. May be best if investigators can bring laptops. There may be some older PC systems available.

When is staff needed/Length of time /#

ASAP for 6 weeks

What type of media assistance needed:

- Assistance with messaging to disparate communities on protecting them self from exposure, social distancing, etc.
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- Press releases, social media, etc. we will take whatever they can provide.

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Technical assistance:

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State curfew:

There is no state or local curfew currently in place. No civil unrest episodes in Logan or Cache Valley area of Utah have occurred. At present, Salt Lake City curfew has been lifted and unrest incidents have subsided.

On Wed, Jun 3, 2020 at 5:15 PM Grant, Gail B. (CDC/DDID/NCHHSTP/DTE) <gab2@cdc.gov> wrote:

Todd-

I note that Angela has done the hand-off. It is my pleasure to work with both of you as we begin the process to identify staff to deploy to UT to assist with the outbreak. I have a call in to my team lead, and we will begin work on this.

In an effort to expedite, the ask (specifically) should be in writing from the state. We have captured most of this, but during our call, I indicated that I we would need it summarized in writing so that we can submit coming from the state. When you complete (see below), send to me at gab2@cdc.gov; bullets are fine.

Feel free to add anything else. In the meantime, we will put you in touch with someone from the TX and CO teams to talk about their experience, protocol followed, outcomes, other working with the plant.

Thank you,

Gail

### **Briefly**

Identify Problem (discuss issue at this plant, ongoing transmission, strained UT DPH staff, issues with testing, lab, other):

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Gaps: Limited staff capacity

Where is the outbreak (name of plant/city)

Staff needed(epi, public health advisor, comm staff, lab support)

Duties of team / specify

Language Needed or special skills:

Who will lead the team (explain here that you will supervise team)

Is your health department practicing the guidelines- explain

Where will staff be placed, will there be work desk, computer, other tools:

When is staff needed/Length of time /#

What type of media assistance needed

Lab support?

Technical assistance: CDC staff who have been involved with same company in TX and Greeley, CO (lessons learned)

State curfew?

**From:** Angela Dunn <angeladunn@utah.gov>

**Sent:** Wednesday, June 3, 2020 6:37 PM

**To:** Grant, Gail B. (CDC/DDID/NCHHSTP/DTE) <gab2@cdc.gov>; Lloyd Berentzen <lloydber@brhd.org>; Todd Barson <tbarson@brhd.org>

**Subject:** CDC / Bear River HD Intro

Gail, Lloyd, Todd --

Here is your e-intro. I'll step back. Todd/Lloyd, reach out to me if you need anything at all.

Thanks!

Angela

--

**Angela C. Dunn, MD MPH**

State Epidemiologist | Utah Department of Health

Office: 801-538-6226

*Please call my office or cell if you need assistance immediately.*

## \*\*\*\*\* IMPORTANT MESSAGE \*\*\*\*\*

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--

Todd Barson, Deputy Director

Bear River Health Department

655 East 1300 North

Logan, UT 84341

tbarson@brhd.org

435-792-6511



Lloyd Berentzen &lt;lloydber@brhd.org&gt;

**UT: escalated Deployment/HIGH/on the ground**

1 message

**Grant, Gail B. (CDC/DDID/NCHHSTP/DTE)** <gab2@cdc.gov>

Thu, Jun 4, 2020 at 6:42 AM

To: Todd Barson &lt;tbarson@brhd.org&gt;, Lloyd Berentzen &lt;lloydber@brhd.org&gt;

Cc: "Dunn, Angela (CDC utah.gov)" &lt;angeladunn@utah.gov&gt;, "Grant, Gail B. (CDC/DDID/NCHHSTP/DTE)"

&lt;gab2@cdc.gov&gt;, "CCDC IMS 2019 NCOV Response Health Dept Liaison Unit (CDC)" &lt;eocevent375@cdc.gov&gt;

We are moving it now. Keeping you in the loop.

Thanks

Gail

**From:** Thorne, Stacy (CDC/DDID/NCHHSTP/DHPSE) <shj4@cdc.gov>**Sent:** Thursday, June 4, 2020 8:40 AM**To:** Grant, Gail B. (CDC/DDID/NCHHSTP/DTE) <gab2@cdc.gov>; CDC IMS 2019 NCOV Response HDTF Deputies <eocevent436@cdc.gov>; Merkle, Sarah (CDC/DDNID/NCCDPHP/OD) <zrp0@cdc.gov>; Greco Kone, Rebecca (CDC/DDPHSIS/OD) <ftm1@cdc.gov>; Fuld, Jennifer (CDC/OD/OADPS) <ngt0@cdc.gov>**Cc:** Dittrich, Michelle M. (ATSDR/DCHI/EB) <yhf8@cdc.gov>; Qi, Yan P. (CDC/DDNID/NCBDDD/DBDID) <irv7@cdc.gov>; CDC IMS HDTF Field Deployment Unit <eocevent91@cdc.gov>**Subject:** RE: Deployment/HIGH/on the ground

Thanks Gail,

I see the requirements below and we will get started on this request ASAP.

Stacy

**From:** Grant, Gail B. (CDC/DDID/NCHHSTP/DTE) <gab2@cdc.gov>**Sent:** Thursday, June 4, 2020 8:35 AM**To:** CDC IMS 2019 NCOV Response HDTF Deputies <eocevent436@cdc.gov>; Merkle, Sarah (CDC/DDNID/NCCDPHP/OD) <zrp0@cdc.gov>; Greco Kone, Rebecca (CDC/DDPHSIS/OD) <ftm1@cdc.gov>; Fuld, Jennifer (CDC/OD/OADPS) <ngt0@cdc.gov>; Thorne, Stacy (CDC/DDID/NCHHSTP/DHPSE) <shj4@cdc.gov>**Cc:** Dittrich, Michelle M. (ATSDR/DCHI/EB) <yhf8@cdc.gov>; Qi, Yan P. (CDC/DDNID/NCBDDD/DBDID) <irv7@cdc.gov>**Subject:** RE: Deployment/HIGH/on the ground

Sarah

The specific duties/responsibilities are indicated below. If more is needed, please advise.

Thanks

Gail



**From:** CDC IMS 2019 NCOV Response HDTF Deputies <eocevent436@cdc.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 4, 2020 8:30 AM  
**To:** Merkle, Sarah (CDC/DDNID/NCCDPHP/OD) <zrp0@cdc.gov>; Greco Kone, Rebecca (CDC/DDPHSIS/OD) <ftm1@cdc.gov>; Fuld, Jennifer (CDC/OD/OADPS) <ngt0@cdc.gov>; Thorne, Stacy (CDC/DDID/NCHHSTP/DHPSE) <shj4@cdc.gov>  
**Cc:** Dittrich, Michelle M. (ATSDR/DCHI/EB) <yhf8@cdc.gov>; Qi, Yan P. (CDC/DDNID/NCBDDD/DBDID) <irv7@cdc.gov>; Grant, Gail B. (CDC/DDID/NCHHSTP/DTE) <gab2@cdc.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Deployment/HIGH/on the ground

Yes, please move forward with coordinating with UT to specify the needed skill sets and to identify a team to deploy.

Thanks,

David

David Hunter, MPH, MSW  
Deputy for Health Department Support  
Health Department Task Force  
COVID-19 Response  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
exu5@cdc.gov | 404-821-8317

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**From:** Merkle, Sarah (CDC/DDNID/NCCDPHP/OD) <zrp0@cdc.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 4, 2020 8:28 AM  
**To:** Hunter, David W. (CDC/DDPHSIS/CPR/DSL) <exu5@cdc.gov>; Greco Kone, Rebecca (CDC/DDPHSIS/OD) <ftm1@cdc.gov>; Fuld, Jennifer (CDC/OD/OADPS) <ngt0@cdc.gov>; Thorne, Stacy (CDC/DDID/NCHHSTP/DHPSE) <shj4@cdc.gov>  
**Cc:** Dittrich, Michelle M. (ATSDR/DCHI/EB) <yhf8@cdc.gov>; Qi, Yan P. (CDC/DDNID/NCBDDD/DBDID) <irv7@cdc.gov>; Grant, Gail B. (CDC/DDID/NCHHSTP/DTE) <gab2@cdc.gov>  
**Subject:** FW: Deployment/HIGH/on the ground

Good morning,

We have an urgent request for deployed staff to assist with an outbreak at a meat-packing plant in UT. David and Rebecca/Jennifer - sending the request for your awareness and approval. Stacy - including you since this is an urgent request.

Gail and Michelle had an initial field assistance call yesterday evening.

Please let us know if we can move forward with working with Stacy to deploy a team ASAP.

Thanks,

Sarah

**From:** Todd Barson <tbarson@brhd.org>

**Sent:** Wednesday, June 3, 2020 8:01 PM

**To:** Grant, Gail B. (CDC/DDID/NCHHSTP/DTE) <gab2@cdc.gov>

**Cc:** Lloyd Berentzen <lloydber@brhd.org>; Dunn, Angela (CDC utah.gov) <angeladunn@utah.gov>; Angie White <awhite@brhd.org>

**Subject:** Re: UT follow-up /CDC / Bear River HD Intro

**Re: Request for 5 junior to mid-level staff with multiple language skills to assist with outbreak in UT**

**Identify Problem:**

- Meat packing plant in northern Utah (Hyrum City).
- Employs 1500 people. Implementing several screening measures.
- COVID is still spreading through the meat packing plant.
- Anecdotal reports of employees being required to work when sick.
- Local emergency rooms are being used by employees seeking treatment for symptoms and looking for notes to take to their employer.
- Approaching 100 cases at the plant. Several other cases are associated with JBS in some way.
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- Two severe illnesses to date.
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- Contact tracing is already at capacity at local level. UDOH is at capacity to be able to help with this.

**Gaps:**

- Limited staff capacity.
- Small LHD with one full time epidemiologist and some part time epi workers.
- Refugee population creating language barriers. Majority of non-English speakers are Spanish speaking. Additional languages include Marshallese, Arabic, Karen, Tigre.

**Where is the outbreak?:**

JBS Beef

410 N 200 W

Hyrum, UT 8431

**Staff needed:**

5 Mid Level Epidemiologist

Communications support (remotely)

**Duties of team / specify:**

- Acts as case lead investigators.
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- Accurately enters investigation data into EpiTrax. Coordinates with Investigation Team Lead

**Language Needed or special skills:**

- Spanish speaking.
- Additional languages include Marshallese, Arabic, Karen, Tigre
- Epi and investigation knowledge and experience.

**Who will supervise/support team on the ground?**

Administrative: Todd Barson, Deputy Director. Todd will work with team members on the logistics of work space, IT needs, and schedules.

Epi Team: Angie White, Lead Epidemiologist. Angie will work with team members on the day to day investigations process; supervision

---

**Is your health department following guidelines for prevention of COVID-19?:**

BRHD has put several infection control measures in place including: social distancing practices, work-from-home options, Zoom and Google Meet meetings instead of in person meetings, sanitizing schedule of high touch surfaces, symptom checking including temperature, curbside service for clients, and face coverings when good social distancing is not possible.

**Where will staff work, will there be work desk, computer, other tools needed to conduct work?**

There will be a designated desk and work phone provided. Computers are limited. May be best if investigators can bring laptops. There may be some older PC systems available.

**When is staff needed/Length of time /#?**

ASAP for 6 weeks

**What type of media assistance needed (to be done remotely)**

- Assistance with messaging to disparate communities on protecting them self from exposure, social distancing, etc.
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- Assistance with handling the different messages coming from employees and employer regarding workplace practices.
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- Press releases, social media, etc. we will take whatever they can provide.

**Lab support?**

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**Technical assistance needed:**

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**State curfew:**

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Lloyd Berentzen &lt;lloydber@brhd.org&gt;

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**UT: High/Deployment/HIGH/on the ground**

3 messages

**Grant, Gail B. (CDC/DDID/NCHHSTP/DTE)** <gab2@cdc.gov>

Thu, Jun 4, 2020 at 6:33 AM

To: Todd Barson &lt;tbarson@brhd.org&gt;, Lloyd Berentzen &lt;lloydber@brhd.org&gt;

Cc: "Dunn, Angela (CDC utah.gov)" &lt;angeladunn@utah.gov&gt;, "Grant, Gail B. (CDC/DDID/NCHHSTP/DTE)"

&lt;gab2@cdc.gov&gt;, "CCDC IMS 2019 NCOV Response Health Dept Liaison Unit (CDC)" &lt;eocevent375@cdc.gov&gt;

Todd –

Good morning to you!

See response from my team leader below(S. Merkle). She is escalating this, but there are a few more questions that are now required on our end; these can be found below. Please feel to answer on this thread so that we can keep everything together.

Advise if you need to discuss; here to assist you.

Thanks, Todd.

Gail Burns-Grant

Health Department Liaison/Region 8

Health Department Task Force

CDC/COVID-19

gab2@cdc.gov

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**From:** Merkle, Sarah (CDC/DDNID/NCCDPHP/OD) <zrp0@cdc.gov>**Sent:** Thursday, June 4, 2020 8:22 AM**To:** Grant, Gail B. (CDC/DDID/NCHHSTP/DTE) <gab2@cdc.gov>**Cc:** Dittrich, Michelle M. (ATSDR/DCHI/EB) <yhf8@cdc.gov>; Qi, Yan P. (CDC/DDNID/NCBDDD/DBDID) <irv7@cdc.gov>**Subject:** RE: Deployment/HIGH/on the ground

Hi Gail and Michelle,

I have reviewed and I'm supportive of getting this team on the ground as quickly as we can to help them with the outbreak. I'm going to send it forward to David and Rebecca/Jennifer for awareness/approval now.

I don't see responses to the list of OSSAM questions here, and (per the new SOP) you'll need to get that info from UT and send the responses to OSSAM for approval before the team can deploy.

Here's the list of OSSAM questions from the SOP. You may know answers to some of these already based on the conversation last night.

## 17. CDC OSSAM:

- a. Where will the location of deployment be? (city, state or more specific location information)
- b. Will the tasks required for the deployment ONLY occur in an office environment, such as a conference room or call center, state or local EOC?
- c. Will the tasks for this deployment require deployers to come into proximity with suspected or confirmed cases of COVID19, working in a laboratory with biological samples, or obtaining biological samples through NP/ OP swab, etc.?
- d. Will the tasks for this deployment require deployers to conduct blood draws?
- e. Will the tasks for the deployment require deployers to enter industrial environments, i.e. food processing plant, warehouse, water treatment plant, etc.?
- f. Will this deployment involve working with animals (domestic, agricultural, or feral)?
- g. Will the tasks for this deployment require deployers to enter facilities such as homeless shelters, correctional facilities or other environments where health hazards may be present?
- h. Does this deployment pose any additional hazards not covered by previous questions, for example remote or isolated location, tribal areas, unique security issues, language or cultural barriers, direct interaction with the public etc.?

Sarah

**From:** Grant, Gail B. (CDC/DDID/NCHHSTP/DTE) <gab2@cdc.gov>

**Sent:** Wednesday, June 3, 2020 9:04 PM

**To:** Dittrich, Michelle M. (ATSDR/DCHI/EB) <yhf8@cdc.gov>

**Cc:** Grant, Gail B. (CDC/DDID/NCHHSTP/DTE) <gab2@cdc.gov>; CCDC IMS 2019 NCOV Response Health Dept Liaison Unit (CDC) <eocevent375@cdc.gov>; Qi, Yan P. (CDC/DDNID/NCBDDD/DBDID) <irv7@cdc.gov>; Merkle, Sarah (CDC/DDNID/NCCDPHP/OD) <zrp0@cdc.gov>

**Subject:** UT:Deployment/HIGH/on the ground

Michelle -

Here is the ask. Todd and I spoke right before he sent this, and there was an opportunity for us to review a bit. He summarized, and I did a bit of editing. If you note anything the state has omitted that we discussed, please feel free to add to this before we send up the chain. I have done my editing.

As the field coordinator, let's all talk about next steps. This is actually my first time having a request for on the ground assistance re: COVID-19 outbreak, so it will be a good learning experience. Let' all talk about this after you/Sarah have had an opportunity to review.

Thanks,

Gail Burns-Grant

HD Liaison/Region 8

Health Department Task Force

CDC/COVID-19

gab2@cdc.gov

**From:** Todd Barson <tbarson@brhd.org>

**Sent:** Wednesday, June 3, 2020 8:01 PM

**To:** Grant, Gail B. (CDC/DDID/NCHHSTP/DTE) <gab2@cdc.gov>

**Cc:** Lloyd Berentzen <lloydber@brhd.org>; Dunn, Angela (CDC utah.gov) <angeladunn@utah.gov>; Angie White <awhite@brhd.org>

**Subject:** Re: UT follow-up /CDC / Bear River HD Intro

**Re: Request for 5 junior to mid-level staff with multiple language skills to assist with outbreak in UT**

**Identify Problem:**

- Meat packing plant in northern Utah (Hyrum City).
- Employs 1500 people. Implementing several screening measures.
- COVID is still spreading through the meat packing plant.
- Anecdotal reports of employees being required to work when sick.
- Local emergency rooms are being used by employees seeking treatment for symptoms and looking for notes to take to their employer.
- Approaching 100 cases at the plant. Several other cases are associated with JBS in some way.
- Hourly wage workers don't have a lot of options for economic security outside of their job and are most likely not disclosing to JBS that they are ill.
- Two severe illnesses to date.
- Most workers socialize together outside of work. Hard to disentangle exposure from work and social situations.
- Contact tracing is already at capacity at local level. UDOH is at capacity to be able to help with this.

**Gaps:**

- Limited staff capacity.
- Small LHD with one full time epidemiologist and some part time epi workers.
- Refugee population creating language barriers. Majority of non-English speakers are Spanish speaking. Additional languages include Marshallese, Arabic, Karen, Tigre.

**Where is the outbreak?:**

JBS Beef

410 N 200 W

Hyrum, UT 8431

**Staff needed:**

5 Mid Level Epidemiologist

Communications support (remotely)

**Duties of team / specify:**

- Acts as case lead investigators.
- Makes initial contacts with persons identified in EpiTrax as a COVID positive case.
- Conducts initial case interview of COVID positive persons.
- Identifies contacts of COVID positive individuals.
- Puts individuals in isolation/quarantine and educates them on importance and need to comply.
- Conducts initial interview with contacts OR forwards contact information to Contact Tracers for initial interviewing.
- Coordinates with Contract Tracers and Support Staff to identify any housing, food, medical, or other support needed.
- Accurately enters investigation data into EpiTrax.Coordinates with Investigation Team Lead

---

**Language Needed or special skills:**

- Spanish speaking.
- Additional languages include Marshallese, Arabic, Karen, Tigre
- Epi and investigation knowledge and experience.

**Who will supervise/support team on the ground?**

Administrative: Todd Barson, Deputy Director. Todd will work with team members on the logistics of work space, IT needs, and schedules.

Epi Team: Angie White, Lead Epidemiologist. Angie will work with team members on the day to day investigations process; supervision

**Is your health department following guidelines for prevention of COVID-19?:**

BRHD has put several infection control measures in place including: social distancing practices, work-from-home options, Zoom and Google Meet meetings instead of in person meetings, sanitizing schedule of high touch surfaces, symptom checking including temperature, curbside service for clients, and face coverings when good social distancing is not possible.

**Where will staff work, will there be work desk, computer, other tools needed to conduct work?**

There will be a designated desk and work phone provided. Computers are limited. May be best if investigators can bring laptops. There may be some older PC systems available.

**When is staff needed/Length of time /#?**



ASAP for 6 weeks

**What type of media assistance needed (to be done remotely)**

- Assistance with messaging to disparate communities on protecting them self from exposure, social distancing, etc.
- Assistance with messaging to community and media about meat packing plant outbreak
- Assistance with handling the different messages coming from employees and employer regarding workplace practices.
- Lessons learned from similar situations (ie Greeley, Colorado plant)
- Talking points for a meat packing industry & covid-19.
- Press releases, social media, etc. we will take whatever they can provide.

**Lab support?**

- Will need to do some testing on employees (possibly 2 more rounds of 1500)
- BRHD coordinates labs and testing with UDOH mobile units.

**Technical assistance needed:**

- CDC staff who have been involved with same company in TX and Greeley, CO (lessons learned)
- Communications and media assistance as stated above
- COVID investigation advice and TA

**State curfew:**

There is no state or local curfew currently in place. No civil unrest episodes in Logan or Cache Valley area of Utah have occurred. At present, Salt Lake City curfew has been lifted and unrest incidents have subsided.

---

**Todd Barson** <tbarson@brhd.org>

Thu, Jun 4, 2020 at 7:47 AM

To: "Grant, Gail B. (CDC/DDID/NCHHSTP/DTE)" <gab2@cdc.gov>

Cc: Lloyd Berentzen <lloydber@brhd.org>, "Dunn, Angela (CDC utah.gov)" <angeladunn@utah.gov>, "CCDC IMS 2019 NCOV Response Health Dept Liaison Unit (CDC)" <eocevent375@cdc.gov>

Gail...Here are the responses to the additional questions:

**17. CDC OSSAM:**

- a. Where will the location of deployment be?

Bear River Health Department, 655 E 1300 N, Logan, Utah 84341. A multi county (Cache, Rich, and Box Elder Counties) LHD in northern Utah

- b. Will the tasks required for the deployment ONLY occur in an office environment, such as a conference room or call center, state or local EOC? Yes, office only.

- c. Will the tasks for this deployment require deployers to come into proximity with suspected or confirmed cases of COVID19, working in a laboratory with biological samples, or obtaining biological samples through NP/ OP swab, etc.? No. Case investigations by phone.

- d. Will the tasks for this deployment require deployers to conduct blood draws? No.

- e. Will the tasks for the deployment require deployers to enter industrial environments, i.e. food processing plant, warehouse, water treatment plant, etc.? No. Unless advised by the deployed team member as a necessary part of their investigation.
- f. Will this deployment involve working with animals (domestic, agricultural, or feral)? No.
- g. Will the tasks for this deployment require deployers to enter facilities such as homeless shelters, correctional facilities or other environments where health hazards may be present? No. Unless advised by the deployed team member as a necessary part of their investigation.
- h. Does this deployment pose any additional hazards not covered by previous questions, for example remote or isolated location, tribal areas, unique security issues, language or cultural barriers, direct interaction with the public etc.? No.

[Quoted text hidden]

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**Grant, Gail B. (CDC/DDID/NCHHSTP/DTE)** <gab2@cdc.gov>

Thu, Jun 4, 2020 at 7:57 AM

To: Todd Barson <tbarson@brhd.org>

Cc: Lloyd Berentzen <lloydber@brhd.org>, "Dunn, Angela (CDC utah.gov)" <angeladunn@utah.gov>, "CCDC IMS 2019 NCOV Response Health Dept Liaison Unit (CDC)" <eocevent375@cdc.gov>

Todd

Thank you!

Gail

[Quoted text hidden]



Lloyd Berentzen &lt;lloydber@brhd.org&gt;

**Fwd: Meat packing plant outbreak in Utah. Any advice?**

7 messages

Keegan McCaffrey &lt;kmccaffrey@utah.gov&gt;

Thu, Jun 4, 2020 at 9:44 AM

To: Lloyd Berentzen <lloydber@brhd.org>, Angela Dunn <angeladunn@utah.gov>, Bree Barbeau <bbarbeau@utah.gov>, Kylie Sage <kyliesage@utah.gov>

All, Please see the attached documents from CO on their outbreak. Lloyd. Would you be able to have someone on at 1:30 to hear from Colorado's experience, would this still be useful for you? UDOH team, do we have a point person on this we would like to attend?

Keegan

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Fedak - CDPHE, Kristen** <kristen.fedak@state.co.us>

Date: Thu, Jun 4, 2020 at 9:39 AM

Subject: Re: Meat packing plant outbreak in Utah. Any advice?

To: Rachel H. Jervis &lt;rachel.jervis@state.co.us&gt;

Cc: Alden - CDPHE, Nisha &lt;nisha.aldeen@state.co.us&gt;, Amanda Metz - CDPHE &lt;amanda.metz@state.co.us&gt;, Keegan McCaffrey &lt;kmccaffrey@utah.gov&gt;

Hi Keegan,

Happy to help share what we know!

Tomorrow, noon-2 that Rachel is free is unfortunately the only time I am not available....My meeting from 1-2 may only need me for the first 15-20 minutes, though, if we want to aim for a quick call from 1:30-2 and that works for Keegan?

Attached are the NIOSH site visit report and our CDPHE site visit report from JBS.

Also, I want to make sure you are aware that CDC just released a COVID facility assessment tool for meat and poultry facilities a few days ago (this is additional to the previous CDC/OSHA meat-packing facility guidance.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/meat-processing-assessment-tool.html> The page links out to the previously published guidance from CDC and OSHA, as well as new "facility checklist" and "facility assessment tool" worksheets that are intended to be used by public health for outbreak intake assessment, site visits, etc.

Kristen

**Kristen Fedak, MEM, PhD****Occupational Health Coordinator**

Division of Disease Control and Public Health Response

**COLORADO**  
Department of Public  
Health & Environment

due to COVID-19, I am working remotely. cell: 413.374.2641

kristen.fedak@state.co.us | [www.colorado.gov/cdphe](http://www.colorado.gov/cdphe)

On Thu, Jun 4, 2020 at 9:22 AM Rachel H. Jervis <rachel.jervis@state.co.us> wrote:

Hi Keegan,

Yes, Amanda, Kristen, and I have spent a lot of time working with JBS; they actually have two Colorado outbreaks (their corporate office and the Greeley plant).

Kirsten, could you please share the NIOSH report and our site visit report with Keegan?

Let's schedule 30 min to talk in the next day or two. I'm free from noon-2 pm tomorrow (Fri 6/5), does that work for Keegan and Kristen?

RJ

On Wed, Jun 3, 2020 at 6:01 PM Alden - CDPHE, Nisha <nisha.alden@state.co.us> wrote:

Hey! I am hanging in, barely, but not sure I am sane. How about you? Have you been on the EIP COVID calls? Haven't heard you! Speaking of which, a few of us EIP folks (Kyle, Kim, Pam, Maya, me) do a virtual happy hour every couple weeks. We have one tomorrow 6pm MT, let me know if you want to join!

And, about your actual question--yes, we definitely have had a JBS plant outbreak in Greeley and other non-JBS ones as well. I am adding my colleague Rachel Jervis to this. She is leading our outbreak section and would be happy to chat with you, I'm sure.

Keegan, meet Rachel. Rachel, meet Keegan from Utah.  
Thanks,  
Nisha

--

Nisha Alden, MPH  
Respiratory and Invasive Bacterial Disease Program Manager  
Communicable Disease Branch



**COLORADO**  
Department of Public  
Health & Environment

P 303.692.2640 | F 303.782.0338

nisha.alden@state.co.us | [www.colorado.gov/cdphe](http://www.colorado.gov/cdphe)

On Wed, Jun 3, 2020 at 5:09 PM Keegan McCaffrey <kmccaffrey@utah.gov> wrote:

Hi Nisha!

Hope you are doing well and staying sane. We have identified a sizable outbreak in a JBS meat production facility here in Utah. I have heard that you had a similar issue in Greeley. Do you have anyone we can contact to learn from COs experience?

Thank you!  
Keegan

--

Keegan McCaffrey  
Epidemiologist  
Influenza Coordinator  
Disease Response, Evaluation, Analysis, and Monitoring Program  
Bureau of Epidemiology | UDOH

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--  
**Rachel H. Jervis, MPH**  
Enteric Disease Unit Manager



**COLORADO**  
Department of Public  
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4300 Cherry Creek Drive South, Denver, CO 80246  
rachel.jervis@state.co.us | www.colorado.gov/cdphe

*Pronouns Used: she/her/hers*

--  
**Keegan McCaffrey**  
Epidemiologist  
Influenza Coordinator  
Disease Response, Evaluation, Analysis, and Monitoring Program  
Bureau of Epidemiology | UDOH

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**2 attachments**

**CDC\_NIOSH\_JBS\_Greeley\_report\_final.pdf**  
84K

**JBS visit 5\_1\_2020 CDPHE.pdf**  
155K

---

**Bree Barbeau** <bbarbeau@utah.gov>

Thu, Jun 4, 2020 at 10:13 AM

To: Keegan McCaffrey <kmccaffrey@utah.gov>

Cc: Lloyd Berentzen <lloydber@brhd.org>, Angela Dunn <angeladunn@utah.gov>, Kylie Sage <kyliesage@utah.gov>

I'm unavailable at 1:30 today. Angela/Keegan, are you planning to attend? And maybe Rebecca (or a representative) from the worksite team? Thoughts?

Bree

[Quoted text hidden]

--  
**Bree Barbeau, MPH**  
Vaccine-Preventable Disease Epidemiologist  
Viral Hepatitis Coordinator

Disease Response, Evaluation, Analysis, & Monitoring Program  
Bureau of Epidemiology  
Utah Department of Health  
Office: 801-538-6300  
Fax: 801-538-9923

[Quoted text hidden]

---

**Lloyd Berentzen** <lloydber@brhd.org>

Thu, Jun 4, 2020 at 10:24 AM

To: Keegan McCaffrey <kmccaffrey@utah.gov>

Cc: Farrin Wiese <fwiese@brhd.org>, Holly Budge <hbudge@brhd.org>, Joshua Greer <jgreer@brhd.org>, Todd Barson <tbarson@brhd.org>

Yes. Thank you Keegan. I will forward this to my appropriate staff.

On Thu, Jun 4, 2020 at 9:44 AM Keegan McCaffrey <kmccaffrey@utah.gov> wrote:

[Quoted text hidden]

---

**Holly Budge** <hbudge@brhd.org>

Thu, Jun 4, 2020 at 10:33 AM

To: Lloyd Berentzen <lloydber@brhd.org>

Cc: Keegan McCaffrey <kmccaffrey@utah.gov>, Farrin Wiese <fwiese@brhd.org>, Joshua Greer <jgreer@brhd.org>, Todd Barson <tbarson@brhd.org>

I can be on a call at 1:30 if needed.

[Quoted text hidden]

--

**Holly L. Budge, MS, CHES**

WIC Director

---

Bear River Health Department

655 E 1300 N

Logan, UT 84341

435-792-6513 (phone)

435-994-0821 (cell)

hbudge@brhd.org

*We now have extended office hours, Monday-Thursday from 8:00 AM until 6:00 PM and Friday from 8:00 AM until 1:00 PM*

---

**Farrin Wiese** <fwiese@brhd.org>

Thu, Jun 4, 2020 at 10:36 AM

To: Lloyd Berentzen <lloydber@brhd.org>

Cc: Keegan McCaffrey <kmccaffrey@utah.gov>, Holly Budge <hbudge@brhd.org>, Joshua Greer <jgreer@brhd.org>, Todd Barson <tbarson@brhd.org>

I'll be on the call. I will contact Keegan to get the call in numbers.

On Thu, Jun 4, 2020 at 10:24 AM Lloyd Berentzen <lloydber@brhd.org> wrote:

[Quoted text hidden]

--

Farrin Wiese

Health Promotion Director

Bear River Health Department

655 E. 1300 N.

Logan, UT 84341

435-792-6522

fwiese@brhd.org

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 8-6pm; Friday 8-1pm

---

**Farrin Wiese** <fwiese@brhd.org>  
To: Keegan McCaffrey <kmccaffrey@utah.gov>  
Cc: Lloyd Berentzen <lloydber@brhd.org>

Thu, Jun 4, 2020 at 10:38 AM

Keegan,  
Farrin Wiese with the Bear River Health Department here. I would like to be on the call today at 1:30. Will you please send me the link or call-in numbers for the meeting? Thank you,

[Quoted text hidden]

[Quoted text hidden]

---

**Keegan McCaffrey** <kmccaffrey@utah.gov>  
To: Bree Barbeau <bbarbeau@utah.gov>, Farrin Wiese <fwiese@brhd.org>, Joshua Greer <jgreer@brhd.org>, Todd Barson <tbarson@brhd.org>  
Cc: Lloyd Berentzen <lloydber@brhd.org>, Angela Dunn <angeladunn@utah.gov>, Kylie Sage <kyliesage@utah.gov>

Thu, Jun 4, 2020 at 10:39 AM

Thanks All, I think they are asking about 1:30 tomorrow. I'll check to confirm.

Keegan

[Quoted text hidden]

[Quoted text hidden]



Lloyd Berentzen &lt;lloydber@brhd.org&gt;

**UT: UT-4 Immediate deployment/urgent/ Team UT-**

5 messages

**Grant, Gail B. (CDC/DDID/NCHHSTP/DTE)** <gab2@cdc.gov> Fri, Jun 5, 2020 at 4:24 PM  
To: "Dunn, Angela (CDC utah.gov)" <angeladunn@utah.gov>  
Cc: Todd Barson <tbarson@brhd.org>, Lloyd Berentzen <lloydber@brhd.org>, "Randolph, Jean (CDC/DDPHSIS/CPR/DSLRL)" <gsj0@cdc.gov>, "Merkle, Sarah (CDC/DDNID/NCCDPHP/OD)" <zrp0@cdc.gov>, "Qi, Yan P. (CDC/DDNID/NCBDDD/DBDID)" <irv7@cdc.gov>, "Dittrich, Michelle M. (ATSDR/DCHI/EB)" <yhf8@cdc.gov>, CDC IMS HDTF Field Deployment Unit <eocevent91@cdc.gov>, "Grant, Gail B. (CDC/DDID/NCHHSTP/DTE)" <gab2@cdc.gov>, "Short, Tyiesha (CDC/DDNID/NCBDDD/DBDID)" <njn8@cdc.gov>, "CCDC IMS 2019 NCOV Response Health Dept Liaison Unit (CDC)" <eocevent375@cdc.gov>, "Thorne, Stacy (CDC/DDID/NCHHSTP/DHPSE)" <shj4@cdc.gov>

Dr. Dunn –

Per your e-mail this evening, I spoke with my team lead, Sarah Merkle. Please see below indicating that we have a team pre-rostered; however, we will not be able to get the team out this weekend. We are pushing on this end, but with some of the logistics on our end, which include medical, it looks like we can have all completed for deployment on 6/10/2020. I understand the urgency, so I wanted to make sure I communicated this tonight so that if you have to plan in the interim, you have that opportunity.

Over the weekend, my colleague, Jean Randolph (copied on this correspondence) will cover for me on Saturday, but I am back on Sunday. Also, please copy our functional mailbox on any correspondence at eocevent375@cdc.gov; other member of our team are also copied for their awareness.

However, If there is urgent business, Jean can reach me on my personal cell. I also passed that on to Todd Barson this week.

Thanks,

Gail Burns-Grant

HD Liaison/Region 8

CDC/COVID 19

gab2@cdc.gov

404.639.5344

**From:** Merkle, Sarah (CDC/DDNID/NCCDPHP/OD) <zrp0@cdc.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 5, 2020 6:11 PM  
**To:** Grant, Gail B. (CDC/DDID/NCHHSTP/DTE) <gab2@cdc.gov>  
**Cc:** Dittrich, Michelle M. (ATSDR/DCHI/EB) <yhf8@cdc.gov>; Qi, Yan P. (CDC/DDNID/NCBDDD/DBDID) <irv7@cdc.gov>  
**Subject:** update from Michelle for UT-4

UT-4 (Meatpacking outbreak): Have a team pre-rostered; Field Deployment Unit is awaiting approval from Chief of Staff



The projected departure date is 6/10 with 1 lab for 2 weeks and remaining members 6 weeks

Angela Dunn <angeladunn@utah.gov>

Fri, Jun 5, 2020 at 4:26 PM

To: "Grant, Gail B. (CDC/DDID/NCHHSTP/DTE)" <gab2@cdc.gov>

Cc: Todd Barson <tbarson@brhd.org>, Lloyd Berentzen <lloydber@brhd.org>, "Randolph, Jean (CDC/DDPHSIS/CPR/DSLRL)" <gsj0@cdc.gov>, "Merkle, Sarah (CDC/DDNID/NCCDPHP/OD)" <zrp0@cdc.gov>, "Qi, Yan P. (CDC/DDNID/NCBDDD/DBDID)" <irv7@cdc.gov>, "Dittrich, Michelle M. (ATSDR/DCHI/EB)" <yhf8@cdc.gov>, CDC IMS HDTF Field Deployment Unit <eocevent91@cdc.gov>, "Short, Tyiesha (CDC/DDNID/NCBDDD/DBDID)" <njn8@cdc.gov>, "CCDC IMS 2019 NCOV Response Health Dept Liaison Unit (CDC)" <eocevent375@cdc.gov>, "Thorne, Stacy (CDC/DDID/NCHHSTP/DHPSE)" <shj4@cdc.gov>

Thank you!

[Quoted text hidden]

--

**Angela C. Dunn, MD MPH**

State Epidemiologist | Utah Department of Health

Office: 801-538-6226

*Please call my office or cell if you need assistance immediately.*

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**CCDC IMS 2019 NCOV Response Health Dept Liaison Unit (CDC)** <eocevent375@cdc.gov> Sat, Jun 6, 2020 at 6:29 AM

To: "Dunn, Angela (CDC utah.gov)" <angeladunn@utah.gov>, "Grant, Gail B. (CDC/DDID/NCHHSTP/DTE)" <gab2@cdc.gov>  
Cc: Todd Barson <tbarson@brhd.org>, Lloyd Berentzen <lloydber@brhd.org>, "Randolph, Jean (CDC/DDPHSIS/CPR/DSLRL)" <gsj0@cdc.gov>, "Merkle, Sarah (CDC/DDNID/NCCDPHP/OD)" <zrp0@cdc.gov>, "Qi, Yan P. (CDC/DDNID/NCBDDD/DBDID)" <irv7@cdc.gov>, "Dittrich, Michelle M. (ATSDR/DCHI/EB)" <yhf8@cdc.gov>, CDC IMS HDTF Field Deployment Unit <eocevent91@cdc.gov>, "Short, Tyiesha (CDC/DDNID/NCBDDD/DBDID)" <njn8@cdc.gov>, "Thorne, Stacy (CDC/DDID/NCHHSTP/DHPSE)" <shj4@cdc.gov>

Good Morning Dr. Dunn I am filling in for Gail for today and have been asked to relay the following questions to you from our leadership in the Health Dept. Task Force.

Should objectives include a plant assessment? i.e., a NIOSH deployer?

Would they like a community engagement/comms person?

Think at least one epi should be a med epi, if not two, given the heavy focus on testing strategies, etc. Does UT agree with this?

I look forward to your answers and will communicate them to the appropriate people when received.

Thank you Jean

Jean Randolph, MPA, RN, COHN-S

Health Dept. TF LNO Region 8

gsj0@cdc.gov

404-639-4099

404-732-5711

---

**From:** Angela Dunn <angeladunn@utah.gov>

**Sent:** Friday, June 5, 2020 6:26 PM

**To:** Grant, Gail B. (CDC/DDID/NCHHSTP/DTE) <gab2@cdc.gov>

**Cc:** Todd Barson <tbarson@brhd.org>; Lloyd Berentzen <lloydber@brhd.org>; Randolph, Jean (CDC/DDPHSIS/CPR/DSLR) <gsj0@cdc.gov>; Merkle, Sarah (CDC/DDNID/NCCDPHP/OD) <zrp0@cdc.gov>; Qi, Yan P. (CDC/DDNID/NCBDDD/DBDID) <irv7@cdc.gov>; Dittrich, Michelle M. (ATSDR/DCHI/EB) <yhf8@cdc.gov>; CDC IMS HDTF Field Deployment Unit <eocevent91@cdc.gov>; Short, Tyiesha (CDC/DDNID/NCBDDD/DBDID) <njn8@cdc.gov>; CCDC IMS 2019 NCOV Response Health Dept Liaison Unit (CDC) <eocevent375@cdc.gov>; Thorne, Stacy (CDC/DDID/NCHHSTP/DHPSE) <shj4@cdc.gov>

**Subject:** Re: UT: UT-4 Immediate deployment/urgent/ Team UT-

[Quoted text hidden]

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**Lloyd Berentzen** <lloydber@brhd.org>

Sat, Jun 6, 2020 at 7:04 AM

To: Todd Barson <tbarson@brhd.org>

What are your thoughts on a plant assessment person? I wonder if they also look at their policies?

[Quoted text hidden]

---

**Todd Barson** <tbarson@brhd.org>

Sat, Jun 6, 2020 at 11:26 AM

To: "CCDC IMS 2019 NCOV Response Health Dept Liaison Unit (CDC)" <eocevent375@cdc.gov>

Cc: "Dunn, Angela (CDC utah.gov)" <angeladunn@utah.gov>, "Grant, Gail B. (CDC/DDID/NCHHSTP/DTE)" <gab2@cdc.gov>, Lloyd Berentzen <lloydber@brhd.org>, "Randolph, Jean (CDC/DDPHSIS/CPR/DSLR)" <gsj0@cdc.gov>, "Merkle, Sarah (CDC/DDNID/NCCDPHP/OD)" <zrp0@cdc.gov>, "Qi, Yan P. (CDC/DDNID/NCBDDD/DBDID)" <irv7@cdc.gov>, "Dittrich, Michelle M. (ATSDR/DCHI/EB)" <yhf8@cdc.gov>, CDC IMS HDTF Field Deployment Unit <eocevent91@cdc.gov>, "Short, Tyiesha (CDC/DDNID/NCBDDD/DBDID)" <njn8@cdc.gov>, "Thorne, Stacy (CDC/DDID/NCHHSTP/DHPSE)" <shj4@cdc.gov>

Hi Jean. Just left you a voice message on this. Responding to your question regarding med epi and NIOSH assistance. Yes on the med epi and NIOSH. We have other food processing facilities in our health district that are starting to have positive tests among employees. Could this person assist with those as well? They are much smaller and include meat, dairy products, and cereal/baked goods.

[Quoted text hidden]

--

Todd Barson, Deputy Director  
Bear River Health Department  
655 East 1300 North  
Logan, UT 84341

tbarson@brhd.org  
435-792-6511



Lloyd Berentzen &lt;lloydber@brhd.org&gt;

---

**Fwd: JBS Retest/Shutdown COVID-19**

2 messages

**Joshua Greer** <jgreer@brhd.org>

Sun, Jun 7, 2020 at 12:21 PM

To: Lloyd Berentzen &lt;lloydber@brhd.org&gt;, Holly Budge &lt;hbudge@brhd.org&gt;

Here is a copy of one of the emails. I have drafted a response - let me know your thoughts.

Thank you for sharing your concerns with us. It is frustrating that lab results from the mass testing event have taken so long to get back to us. Our message has consistently been to stay home when you are sick. Employees should not be working with any symptoms of COVID-19, whether they test positive or not. Anyone with symptoms should isolate away from other people until they have properly recovered.

The meat packing industry has been deemed an essential business by the federal government and is subject to the authority of the US Department of Agriculture. We cannot require these industries to shut down. We do call on business everywhere to make responsible decisions that protect their employees and customers.

We recognize that COVID-19 is being spread in our community and we plead with each individual to do their part. Please stay home if you are sick, practice social distancing, wash your hands, and wear a face covering when social distancing is difficult. The health department is working tirelessly to contact sick and potentially exposed individuals but our efforts won't make a difference unless we have cooperation from the individuals and businesses within our community.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Hailey D** <haileydxnnis@gmail.com>

Date: Sun, Jun 7, 2020 at 11:59 AM

Subject: JBS Retest/Shutdown COVID-19

To: &lt;jgreer@brhd.org&gt;

Hello,

My name is Hailey Dennis and I am resident of Logan, Utah. I am emailing you to express my concern over the testing situation at JBS. Employees have been allowed to work this week despite not knowing the status of their test results that were administered earlier that week. This is a public health crisis that puts many people in the entire Cache County community in danger of unknowingly being exposed and exposing other to COVID-19.

I am demanding a shutdown at JBS to allow for proper measures, such as a retest on all individuals who have worked this week and have received negative test results and for shutdown of JBS to allow for a quarantine of all employees awaiting their new test.

This is the only email I have been able to find in regards to the Bear River Health Department. If there is someone who can best meet my concerns that you can redirect me to I would appreciate it.

--  
Joshua Greer, LEHS  
Public Information Officer  
Bear River Health Department  
435-792-6572

---

**Lloyd Berentzen** <lloydber@brhd.org>

Sun, Jun 7, 2020 at 12:32 PM

To: Joshua Greer &lt;jgreer@brhd.org&gt;



Lloyd Berentzen &lt;lloydber@brhd.org&gt;

---

**UDOH COVID Snapshot**

2 messages

**Angela Dunn** <angeladunn@utah.gov>

Sun, Jun 7, 2020 at 11:22 PM

To: "Bennion, Brian" <bbennion@co.weber.ut.us>, Bradon Bradford <bbradfor@utah.gov>, Bianca James <bjames@ualhd.org>, Brian <brianl@co.davis.ut.us>, Charla Haley <chaley@utah.gov>, David Blodgett <dblodgett@swuhealth.org>, David Mcknight <dmcknight@utah.gov>, Dean Penovich <dpenovich@utah.gov>, Francesca Lanier <flanier@utah.gov>, Gary Edwards <gedwards@slco.org>, Jeff Coombs <jcoombs@tooelehealth.org>, Jenny Johnson <jennyjohnson@utah.gov>, Joelle Fierro <jfierro@utah.gov>, Joel Hoffman <jhoffman@utah.gov>, Jordan Mathis <jmathis@tricityhealth.com>, Joseph Miner <joeminer@utah.gov>, Jill Parker <jparker@ualhd.org>, Worthy Glover <kbenge@sanjuancounty.org>, Keegan McCaffrey <kmccaffrey@utah.gov>, Kevin McCulley <kmcculley@utah.gov>, Krisann Humphreys Bacon <krisannbacon@utah.gov>, Kylie Sage <kyliesage@utah.gov>, Lloyd Berentzen <lloydber@brhd.org>, Marc Babitz <mbabitz@utah.gov>, "Mark Brasher (DHS)" <mbrasher@utah.gov>, Nathan Checketts <nchecketts@utah.gov>, Navina Forsythe <nforsythe@utah.gov>, Nathan Selin <nselin@utah.gov>, Paul Patrick <paulpatrick@utah.gov>, Ralph Clegg <ralph@utahcounty.gov>, Richard Bullough <rullough@summitcounty.org>, Rich Lakin <rlakin@utah.gov>, "Atkinson, Robyn" <rmatkinson@utah.gov>, Randall Probst <rprobst@wasatch.utah.gov>, Sheila Walsh-mcdonald <swalsh@utah.gov>, Shari Watkins <swatkins@utah.gov>, Tom Hudachko <thudachko@utah.gov>

Hi all,

Please find attached the COVID Snapshot. I was asked to answer a specific question from GOMB, so this is more focused. The question is: "Is the increase in cases due to a large number of tests being resulted after a backlog or due to a large outbreak?"

Let me know if you have any questions.

Angela

--

**Angela C. Dunn, MD MPH**

State Epidemiologist | Utah Department of Health

Office: 801-538-6226

*Please call my office or cell if you need assistance immediately.*

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**UDOH COVID Snapshot 7 June 2020.docx**

283K

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**Jill Parker** <jparker@ualhd.org>

Mon, Jun 8, 2020 at 7:10 AM

To: Lloyd Berentzen &lt;lloydber@brhd.org&gt;

Jill

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Angela Dunn <angeladunn@utah.gov>

**Date:** June 7, 2020 at 11:22:47 PM MDT

**To:** "Bennion, Brian" <bbennion@co.weber.ut.us>, Bradon Bradford <bbradfor@utah.gov>, Bianca James <bjames@ualhd.org>, Brian <brianl@co.davis.ut.us>, Charla Haley <chaley@utah.gov>, David Blodgett <dblodgett@swuhealth.org>, David Mcknight <dmcknight@utah.gov>, Dean Penovich <dpenovich@utah.gov>, Francesca Lanier <flanier@utah.gov>, Gary Edwards <gedwards@slco.org>, Jeff Coombs <jcoombs@tooelehealth.org>, Jenny Johnson <jennyjohnson@utah.gov>, Joelle Fierro <jfierro@utah.gov>, Joel Hoffman <jhoffman@utah.gov>, Jordan Mathis <jmathis@tricityhealth.com>, Joseph Miner <joeminer@utah.gov>, Jill Parker <jparker@ualhd.org>, Worthy Glover <kbenge@sanjuancounty.org>, Keegan McCaffrey <kmccaffrey@utah.gov>, Kevin McCulley <kmcculley@utah.gov>, Krisann Humphreys Bacon <krisannbacon@utah.gov>, Kylie Sage <kyliesage@utah.gov>, Lloyd Berentzen <lloydber@brhd.org>, Marc Babitz <mbabitz@utah.gov>, "Mark Brasher (DHS)" <mbrasher@utah.gov>, Nathan Checketts <nchecketts@utah.gov>, Navina Forsythe <nforsythe@utah.gov>, Nathan Selin <nselin@utah.gov>, Paul Patrick <paulpatrick@utah.gov>, Ralph Clegg <ralph@utahcounty.gov>, Richard Bullough <rbullough@summitcounty.org>, Rich Lakin <rlakin@utah.gov>, "Atkinson, Robyn" <rmatkinson@utah.gov>, Randall Probst <rprobst@wasatch.utah.gov>, Sheila Walsh-mcdonald <swalsh@utah.gov>, Shari Watkins <swatkins@utah.gov>, Tom Hudachko <thudachko@utah.gov>

**Subject:** UDOH COVID Snapshot

[Quoted text hidden]



UDOH COVID Snapshot 7 June 2020.docx

283K

7 June 2020

UDOH Snapshot

Topic requested by GOMB

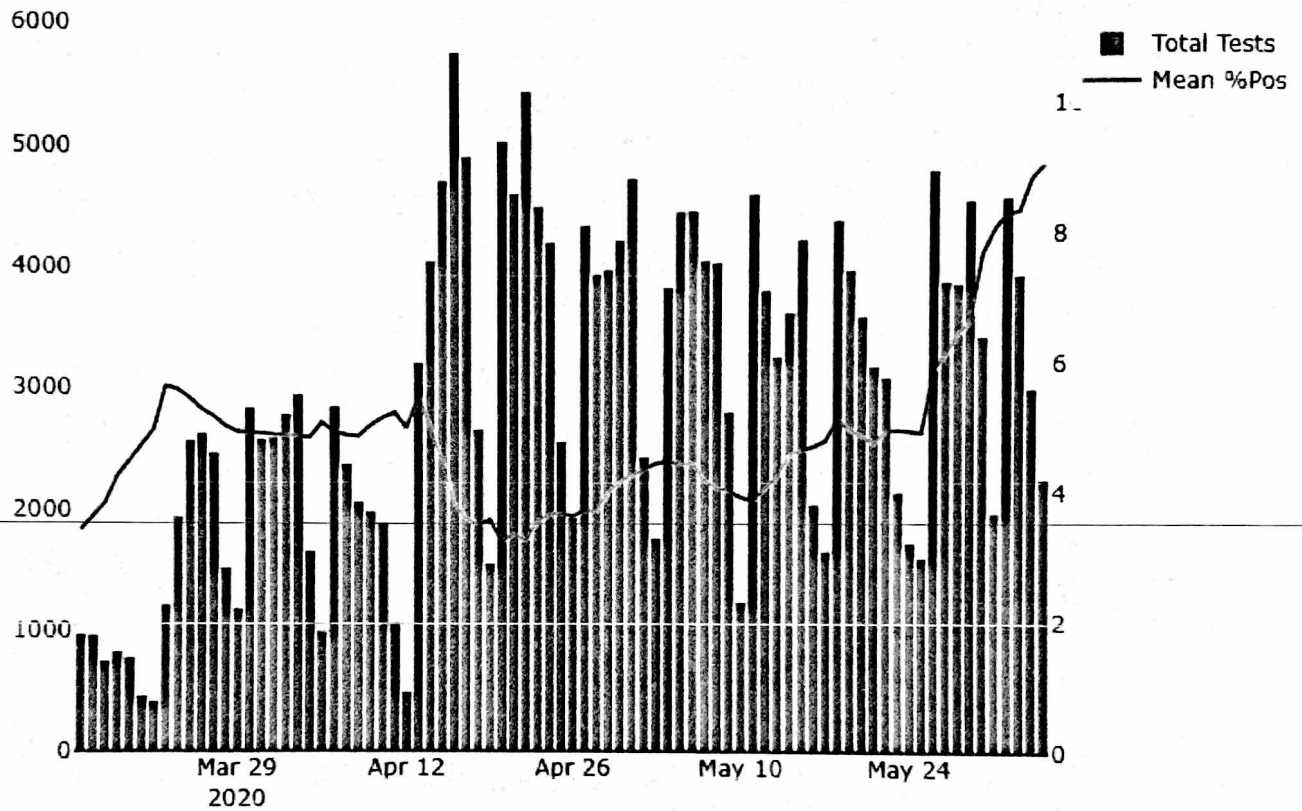
**Number of tests resulted vs. Cases identified**

1. The table below shows that the increase in positive test results started on May 28 and has continued in an upward trend. June 5/6 had much higher positive test results, likely due to the meat packing outbreak.

Date	Total Lab Tests Resulted	Positives	
May 25	2,025	129	Memorial Day
May 26	2,124	99	possibly low due to lack of testing over holiday weekend
May 27	2,034	86	possibly low due to lack of testing over holiday weekend
May 28	2,881	215	Start of increase
May 29	2,348	343	
May 30	4,250	269	
May 31	3,809	264	
June 1	4,250	202	
June 2	3,679	203	
June 3	2,190	295	
June 4	3,526	316	
June 5	4,690	439	*meat packing results (158)
June 6	2,952	546	*meat packing results (181)
June 7	2,802	268	

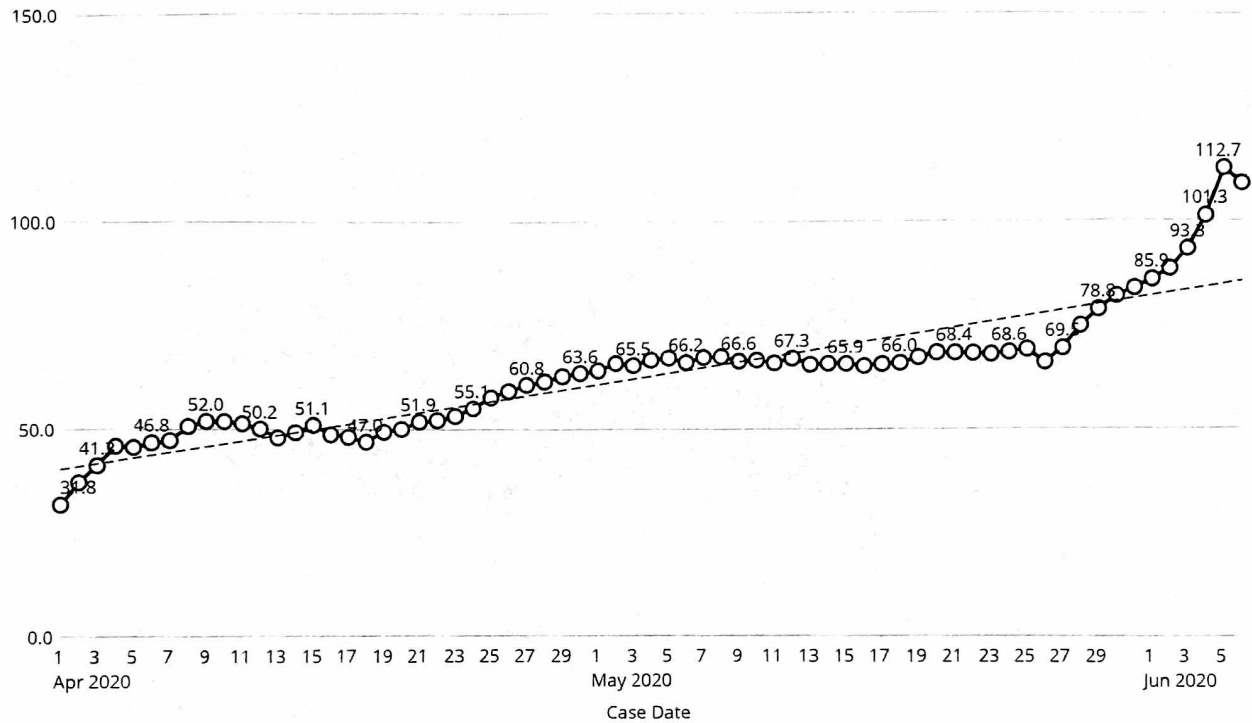
\*meat packing results are approximate and need to be verified by LHD.

2. The below graph shows an increase in the % positive of tests resulted, beginning on May 26. On **May 25**, the 7-day rolling mean was **4.94%**, and has been increasing consistently. The 7-day rolling mean of % positive on **June 4** was **9.06%**, prior to the meat packing outbreak results. This indicates increasing COVID-19 spread not associated with the large meat packing outbreak.



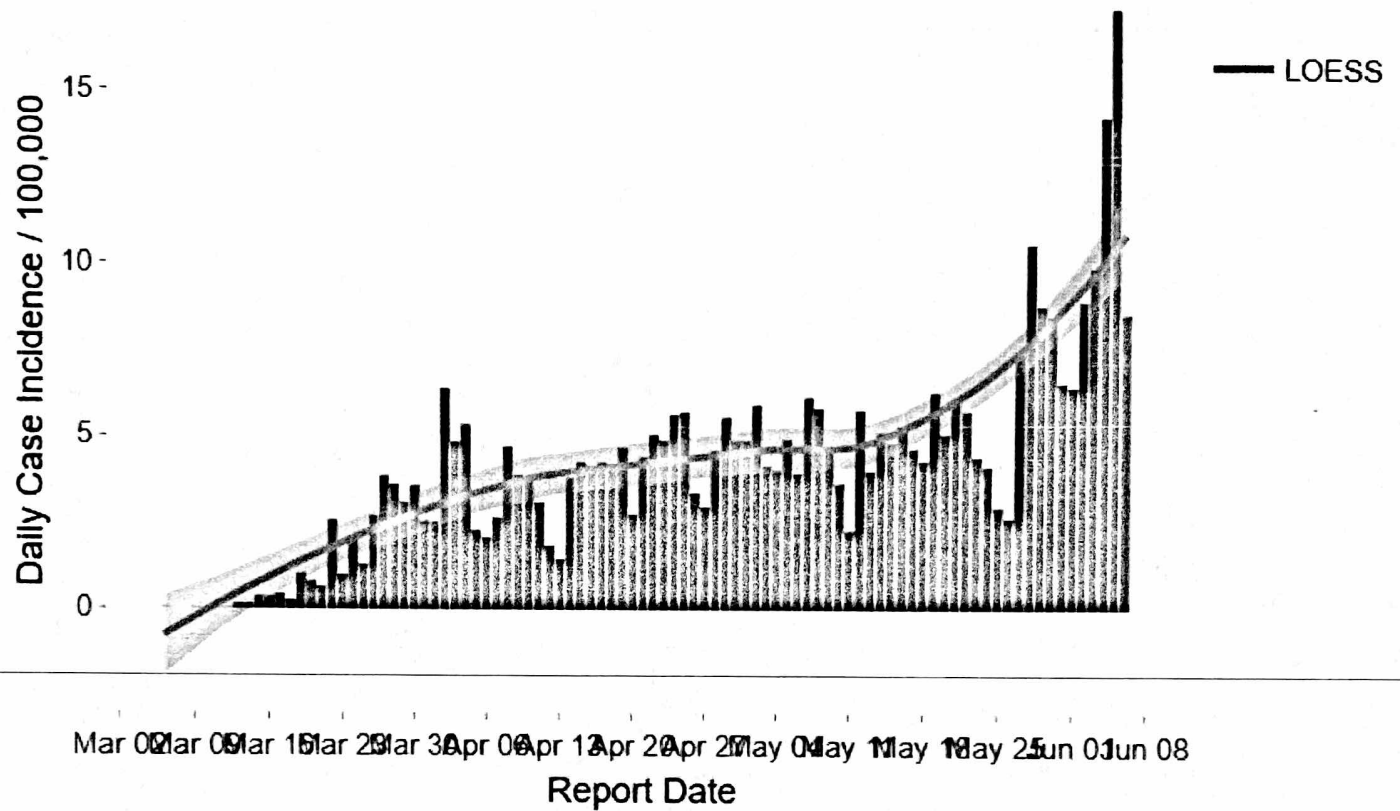


3. The below graph shows active cases / 100,000. Case have been increasing sharply since May 25. **May 25 had 69.2 active cases / 100, 000.** This has increased sharply to **109 active cases / 100,000 on June 6.** On June 4, prior to meat packign tests being resulted, we had 101.3 active cases / 100,000.

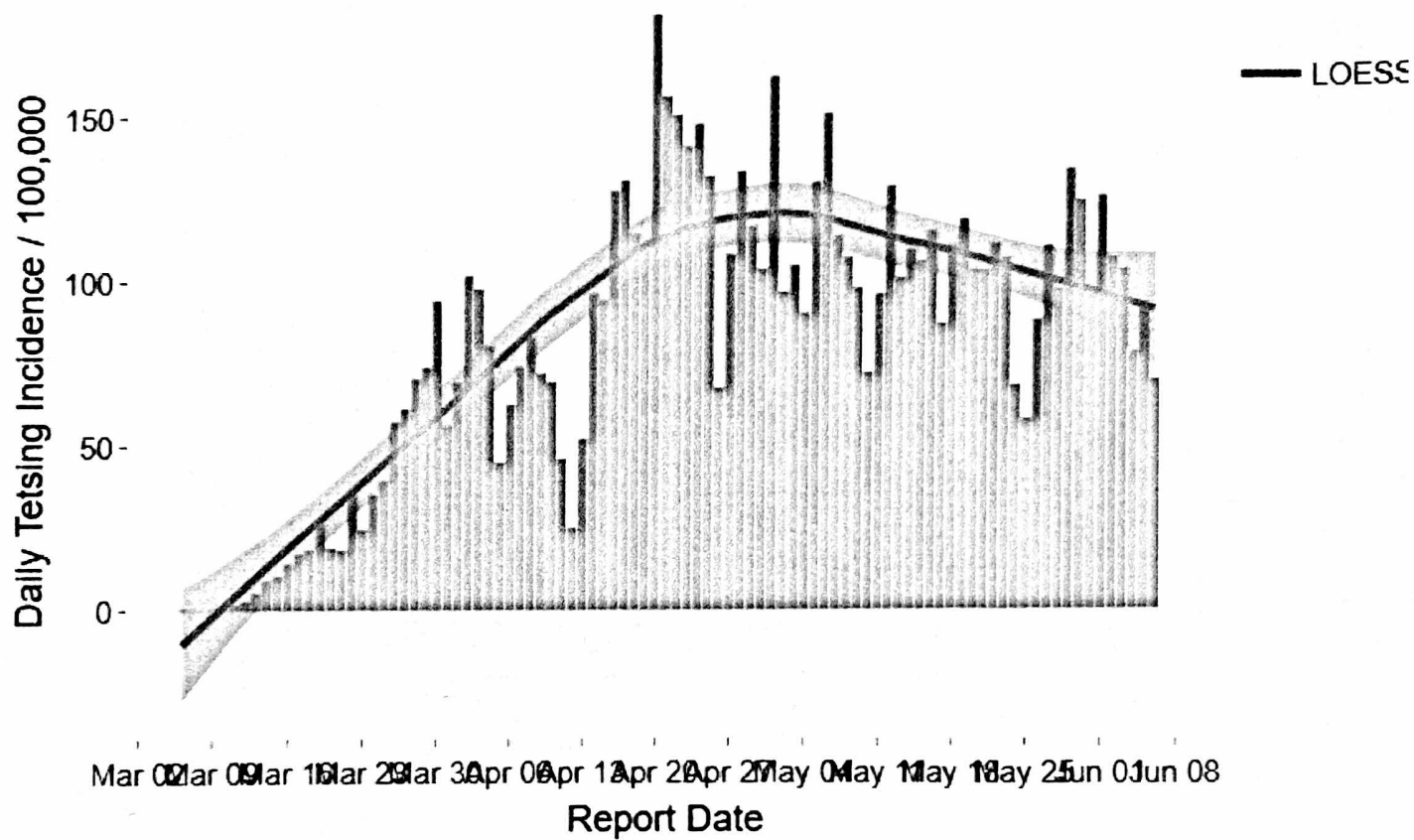




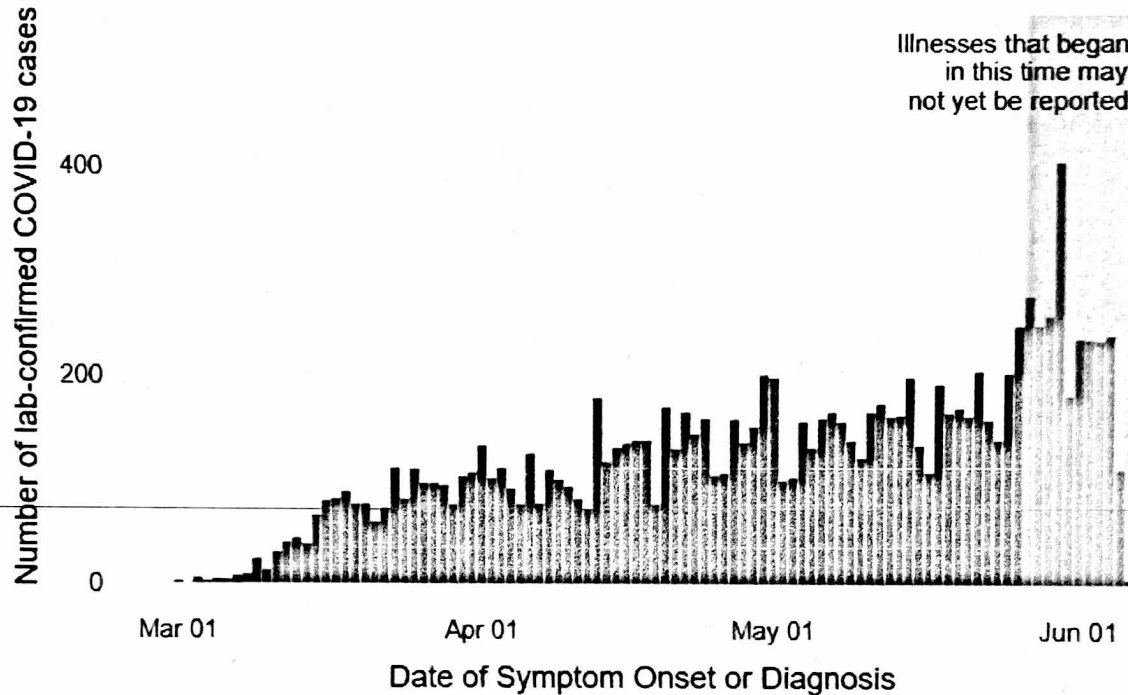
4. The below graph shows the steep increase in daily case incidence from May 25 to June 6.



5. In that same timeframe, total tests resulted has decreased. This shows that the increase in cases is not due to an increase in tests resulted.



6. We also look at the epi-curve by when a case reported symptom onset. This most closely reflects the actual timeline of COVID-19 spread and does not depend on the timing of test results. If a case does not report any symptoms, their date of diagnosis is used in this graph. We see here, again, that the increase in cases started on May 26. The most recent days are unstable counts given that individuals can be symptomatic for several days prior to getting tested.



7. To provide more evidence on the trend, Intermountain shared their trend of % positive over the same timeframe. Intermountain has also seen an increase that began on May 26 and as continued.

Date	% Positive
5/25/2020	4.21687
5/26/2020	7.08826
5/27/2020	4.27861
5/28/2020	10.4592
5/29/2020	9.95355
5/30/2020	8.51064
5/31/2020	7.3895
6/1/2020	6.61922
6/2/2020	7.44312
6/3/2020	7.42049
6/4/2020	8.52941
6/5/2020	9.84589
6/6/2020	7.41982



Lloyd Berentzen &lt;lloydber@brhd.org&gt;

---

**Re: JBS Constituent Concern**

1 message

**Jefferson Burton** <jeffburton@utah.gov>

Mon, Jun 8, 2020 at 1:09 PM

To: Mike Mower &lt;mikemower@utah.gov&gt;

Cc: Gordon Larsen &lt;gordonlarsen@utah.gov&gt;, Jess Anderson &lt;jessanderson@utah.gov&gt;, Angela Dunn &lt;angeladunn@utah.gov&gt;, Marc Babitz &lt;mbabitz@utah.gov&gt;, Kirsten Rappleye &lt;rappleye@utah.gov&gt;, Paul Edwards &lt;paul@utah.gov&gt;

Bcc: lloydber@brhd.org

Mike-

I am working with the local health district on this, and will apprise them of this concern. We have heard similar concerns before. When questioned, JBS denies requiring people with active symptoms to return to work.

Local health officials are in close contact with Corporate Leadership. In addition, the CDC will be on the ground later this week and I'm sure this will be something they will consider. With most of these employees there is a language barrier. It's possible that there is some confusion, but its equally possible comments like these have been made to employees by lower level management.

Jeff

Sent from my iPhone

On Jun 8, 2020, at 12:41 PM, Mike Mower <mikemower@utah.gov> wrote:

FYI - We may need to notify someone at the Health Dept. in Cache County if this is the case.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Mikenzie Orozco** <mikenzieorozco@utah.gov>

Date: Mon, Jun 8, 2020 at 12:04 PM

Subject: JBS Constituent Concern

To: Mike Mower &lt;mikemower@utah.gov&gt;

Hi Mike,

I spoke with a constituent who would like to remain anonymous, the individual called on behalf of their parents. The parents work at JBS meat packing plant in Hyrum and have been asked to return to work on Wednesday June 10th, even though they have both tested positive for COVID-19 and are still showing symptoms.

They were originally tested on May 29th and received a positive result on June 6th. They were told they needed to return to work ASAP because it had been over 10 days since the positive test. They are concerned about returning to work because both are still showing symptoms, such as a cough and fever.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Mikenzie

--

Mikenzie Orozco

Administrative Assistant  
Office of the Governor  
State of Utah  
801-538-3316

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Lloyd Berentzen <lloydber@brhd.org>

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## FW: Proposed Agenda: Information call /NIOSH with UT/re: assistance with COVID-19 outbreak in meat processing plant

1 message

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Grant, Gail B. (CDC/DDID/NCHHSTP/DTE) <gab2@cdc.gov>

Mon, Jun 8, 2020 at 10:37 AM

To: Todd Barson <tbarson@brhd.org>, Lloyd Berentzen <lloydber@brhd.org>, Angie White <awhite@brhd.org>, "Dunn, Angela (CDC utah.gov)" <angeladunn@utah.gov>

Cc: "CCDC IMS 2019 NCOV Response Health Dept Liaison Unit (CDC)" <eocevent375@cdc.gov>, "Grant, Gail B. (CDC/DDID/NCHHSTP/DTE)" <gab2@cdc.gov>

Todd –

See agenda from Jennifer Hornsby-Myers, Lead, NIOSH. I'll send in better format, but for now, is there anything your end wants to add to this call; we have an hour and want to discuss anything else you would like to cover. Please just add below. Again, I'll format and get out ahead of the meeting.

Thanks

Gail

---

**From:** Hornsby-Myers, Jennifer (CDC/NIOSH/OD) <ezh7@cdc.gov>

**Sent:** Monday, June 8, 2020 12:23 PM

**To:** Grant, Gail B. (CDC/DDID/NCHHSTP/DTE) <gab2@cdc.gov>; Chiu, Sophia (CDC/NIOSH/DFSE/HETAB) <yjx9@cdc.gov>

**Cc:** Boyles, Tricia (CDC/NIOSH/OD) <idu6@cdc.gov>; Dittrich, Michelle M. (ATSDR/DCHI/EB) <yhf8@cdc.gov>; CCDC IMS 2019 NCOV Response Health Dept Liaison Unit (CDC) <eocevent375@cdc.gov>; CDC IMS HDTF Field Deployment Unit <eocevent91@cdc.gov>

**Subject:** Proposed Agenda: Information call /NIOSH with UT/re: assistance with COVID-19 outbreak in meat processing plant

Hi Gail,

Here is a proposed agenda reflecting what NIOSH would like to cover during our call with UT at 3:30 this afternoon. Please feel free to edit as you see fit.

### Proposed Agenda:

1. UT describes the industries where they see a need for assistance
2. Introduction of NIOSH: Jennifer H-M: 2-3 min
3. Meatpacking overview/tools: Sophia Chiu: 2-3 min

4. General Industry overview/tools: Scott Brueck: 2-3 min
6. Time for dialog/clarifying questions: majority of the call

Jennifer

\*\*\*\*\*

Jennifer Hornsby-Myers, MS, CIH  
Commander, US Public Health Service  
Senior Industrial Hygienist  
Regional Operations Director  
Emergency Preparedness and Response Office  
National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
1095 Willowdale Rd, MS L-1109  
Morgantown, WV 26505  
304-285-5828 (Office)  

---

404-975-9925 (Cell)  
JHornsby-Myers@cdc.gov





Lloyd Berentzen &lt;lloydber@brhd.org&gt;

## Information call / NIOSH with UT/re: assistance with COVID-19 outbreak in meat processing plant

1 message

**Grant, Gail B. (CDC/DDID/NCHHSTP/DTE)** <gab2@cdc.gov> Mon, Jun 8, 2020 at 1:16 PM

To: "Hornsby-Myers, Jennifer (CDC/NIOSH/OD)" <ezh7@cdc.gov>, "Merkle, Sarah (CDC/DDNID/NCCDPHP/OD)" <zrp0@cdc.gov>, "Thorne, Stacy (CDC/DDID/NCHHSTP/DHPSE)" <shj4@cdc.gov>, "CCDC IMS 2019 NCOV Response Health Dept Liaison Unit (CDC)" <eocevent375@cdc.gov>, Angie White <awhite@brhd.org>, "Dittrich, Michelle M. (ATSDR/DCHI/EB)" <yhf8@cdc.gov>, "jx9@cdc.gov" <jx9@cdc.gov>, "Dunn, Angela (CDC utah.gov)" <angeladunn@utah.gov>, Todd Barson <tbarson@brhd.org>, Lloyd Berentzen <lloydber@brhd.org>, "Chiu, Sophia (CDC/NIOSH/DFSE/HETAB)" <yjx9@cdc.gov>, "fdh4@cdc.gov" <fdh4@cdc.gov>, "Ham, Jason (CDC/NIOSH/HELD/EAB)" <bvo2@cdc.gov>, "Gingras, Marida (CDC/NIOSH/DCAS)" <fhd4@cdc.gov>, "Hill, Ryan D. (CDC/NIOSH/WSD)" <gii9@cdc.gov>, "Niemeier, Richard T. (Todd) (CDC/NIOSH/DSI/SAB)" <rbn4@cdc.gov>

Cc: "Krishnasamy, Vikram (CDC/DDNID/NCIPC/OD)" <kvl4@cdc.gov>, "Rinsky, Jessica Lynn (CDC/NIOSH/DFSE/HETAB)" <ywc8@cdc.gov>, "Robinson, Tashina (CDC/NIOSH/SMRD)" <ngg9@cdc.gov>, "Reynolds, Laura (CDC/NIOSH/DFSE/HETAB)" <lwy3@cdc.gov>, "Glassford, Eric (CDC/NIOSH/DFSE/HETAB)" <yxx7@cdc.gov>, "Funke, Jeffrey (CDC/NIOSH/DSR/SFIB)" <pta4@cdc.gov>, "Brueck, Scott E. (CDC/NIOSH/DFSE/HETAB)" <zcd6@cdc.gov>, "Grimes, George (CDC/NIOSH/DFSE/HETAB)" <ylt2@cdc.gov>, "DuBose, Weston (CDC/NIOSH/DFSE/HETAB)" <nmf5@cdc.gov>, "Lebouf, Ryan F. (CDC/NIOSH/RHD/FSB)" <igu6@cdc.gov>, "Agedew, Abraham (CDC/DDPHSIS/CGH/DGHT) (CTR)" <lqe1@cdc.gov>

All –

Reminder: Agenda attached below.

The call is set for 3:30 ET. Call information can be found below.

Information call/ NIOSH requesting conference prior to deployment of Team UT-4 to assist with halting further transmission of COVID-19 at a meat processing plant, other in the state.

More information relative to the agenda to follow. Gail Burns-Grant, HD Liaison, Region 8, CDC/COVID-19 (gab2@cdc.gov) is the poc.

UT/CDC/NIOSH Conference

3:30 EST

6/8/2020

Open Meeting/Introduction: Gail Burns-Grant

UT describes the industries where they see a need for assistance

Introduction of NIOSH: Jennifer Hornsby-Myers, NIOSH

Meatpacking overview/tools: Sophia Chiu, NIOSH

## General Industry overview/tools: Scott Brueck, CDC: 2-3

Time for dialog/clarifying questions from UT DPH/Bear River: majority of the call

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Lloyd Berentzen &lt;lloydber@brhd.org&gt;

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**RE: Meatpacking outbreak in northern Utah [External Email]**

2 messages

**Hahn, Christine** <Christine.Hahn@dhw.idaho.gov>

Mon, Jun 8, 2020 at 2:36 PM

To: Angela Dunn &lt;angeladunn@utah.gov&gt;, "Turner, Kathy" &lt;Kathryn.Turner@dhw.idaho.gov&gt;

Cc: Lloyd Berentzen &lt;lloydber@brhd.org&gt;

Thank you, Angela!

Lloyd, we will let our local public health folks know, and they may reach out to you if any Idaho cases are identified; they can also make sure you know how to reach them for assistance, e.g., education, testing, follow-up, monitoring, for any Idaho residents.

Chris

Christine Hahn, MD

Idaho Division of Public Health

Idaho Department of Health and Welfare

(208) 334-5939

Christine.hahn@dhw.idaho.gov

**From:** Angela Dunn <angeladunn@utah.gov>**Sent:** Monday, June 8, 2020 2:24 PM**To:** Hahn, Christine <Christine.Hahn@dhw.idaho.gov>; Turner, Kathy <Kathryn.Turner@dhw.idaho.gov>**Cc:** Lloyd Berentzen <lloydber@brhd.org>**Subject:** Meatpacking outbreak in northern Utah [External Email]

Hi Chris and Kathy,

Our Bear River Health Department has a large COVID-19 outbreak in a meatpacking plant in northern Utah that may have some spillover to Idaho. I am including the Bear River Health Department Health Officer, Lloyd Berentzen, here if you would like more information.

Thank you,

Angela

--

**Angela C. Dunn, MD MPH**

State Epidemiologist | Utah Department of Health

Office: 801-538-6226

*Please call my office or cell if you need assistance immediately.*

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---

**Lloyd Berentzen** <lloydber@brhd.org>

Mon, Jun 8, 2020 at 2:45 PM

To: Farrin Wiese <fwiese@brhd.org>, Holly Budge <hbudge@brhd.org>, Joshua Greer <jgreer@brhd.org>, Todd Barson <tbarson@brhd.org>

[Quoted text hidden]



Lloyd Berentzen &lt;lloydber@brhd.org&gt;

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**Toolkit/ Meatpacking Guidance (CDC/OSHA) and associated tool kit material/email blub for UT**

1 message

---

**Grant, Gail B. (CDC/DDID/NCHHSTP/DTE)** <gab2@cdc.gov> Mon, Jun 8, 2020 at 4:05 PM  
To: Angie White <awhite@brhd.org>, "Dunn, Angela (CDC utah.gov)" <angeladunn@utah.gov>, Lloyd Berentzen <lloydber@brhd.org>, Todd Barson <tbarson@brhd.org>  
Cc: "Grant, Gail B. (CDC/DDID/NCHHSTP/DTE)" <gab2@cdc.gov>, "Dittrich, Michelle M. (ATSDR/DCHI/EB)" <yhf8@cdc.gov>, "Hornsby-Myers, Jennifer (CDC/NIOSH/OD)" <ezh7@cdc.gov>, "Chiu, Sophia (CDC/NIOSH/DFSE/HETAB)" <yjx9@cdc.gov>

Todd –

As indicated on call today, here are the tools and other resources (see attached and below). For guidance, questions, please contact me. Here to assist, along with Jennifer Hornsby-Myers, NIOSH.

Thanks,

Gail

---

**From:** Hornsby-Myers, Jennifer (CDC/NIOSH/OD) <ezh7@cdc.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 8, 2020 5:40 PM  
**To:** Grant, Gail B. (CDC/DDID/NCHHSTP/DTE) <gab2@cdc.gov>  
**Subject:** FW: Meatpacking Guidance (CDC/OSHA) and associated tool kit material/email blub for UT

Hi Gail, RESENDING with manufacturing guidance attached.

Attached and below is the meatpacking industry material and a copy of the Manufacturing material. The toolkit for manufacturing is very similar to the meatpacking material. We will advise you when the manufacturing toolkit is cleared.

Jennifer

---

On April 25, 2020, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) issued interim guidance for meat and poultry processing workers and employers to address coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) infection prevention and control. This guidance is available at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/meat-poultry-processing-workers-employers.html>.

CDC has also developed an assessment toolkit based on this guidance. It is available at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/meat-processing-assessment-tool.html>.

This toolkit is intended for (1) occupational safety and health professionals and (2) state and local health departments. The materials are not intended to be utilized as an enforcement tool and were created to help employers align their COVID-19 prevention programs with the cobranded CDC/OSHA meat and poultry guidance. It includes the following:

- **Facility assessment checklist** for use by *occupational safety and health professionals* to assess a facility's COVID-19 control plan and determine whether control measures in place align with CDC/OSHA guidance
- **Facility assessment tool** for *state, local, tribal, or territorial public health officials* to assess COVID-19 infection prevention and control measures in meat and poultry processing facilities
- **Quick reference slide decks** that provide an overview of the checklist and assessment tool and the CDC/ OSHA interim guidance for meat and poultry processing workers and employers
- **Quick reference guides**, include key strategies for employers to prevent COVID-19 infection among employees and tips for employees to protect themselves and others from COVID-19 at work and at home. The fliers are available in multiple languages.

We have also developed an interview bank with questions that can be used in interviews with workers. It is meant to be adapted as needed. Some jurisdictions have adapted it as a part of a supplemental case investigation form or questionnaires during testing events. Attached please find a copy of the questions and an appendix with some additional information.

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**3 attachments**



**Appendix Meat poultry processing questions 5 14 2020.docx**  
299K



**Meatpoultry\_Processing\_Interview\_questions\_draft\_7May2020v2 clean.docx**  
84K



**Manufacturing Workers and Employers\_Interim Guidance from CDC and OSHA.pdf**  
183K





Lloyd Berentzen &lt;lloydber@brhd.org&gt;

---

**BRHD authority and COVID-19**

2 messages

**Adam Pulver** <apulver@citizen.org>

Wed, Jun 10, 2020 at 2:54 PM

To: "lloydber@brhd.org" &lt;lloydber@brhd.org&gt;

Dear Mr. Berentzen:

Please see the attached letter addressing representations by Josh Greer regarding BRHD's authority during the pandemic.

Thank you,  
Adam Pulver

Adam R. Pulver  
he/him/his  
Attorney  
Public Citizen Litigation Group  
1600 20th Street NW  
Washington, DC 20009  
(202) 588-7790  
apulver@citizen.org

---

 **6-10 Ltr A. Pulver to BRHD re Executive Order.pdf**  
242K

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**Lloyd Berentzen** <lloydber@brhd.org>

Wed, Jun 10, 2020 at 2:58 PM

To: James Swink &lt;jswink@cacheattorney.org&gt;

James,

How should we respond to this?

[Quoted text hidden]

---

 **6-10 Ltr A. Pulver to BRHD re Executive Order.pdf**  
242K





1600 20th Street, NW • Washington, D.C. 20009 • 202/588-1000 • [www.citizen.org](http://www.citizen.org)

June 10, 2020

Lloyd C. Berentzen  
Health Director  
Bear River Health Department  
655 East 1300 North  
Logan, Utah 84341  
[lloydber@brhd.org](mailto:lloydber@brhd.org)

**VIA EMAIL**

Dear Mr. Berentzen:

I write on behalf of Public Citizen, a non-profit advocacy organization with over 500,000 members and supporters across the United States. Since our founding in 1971, Public Citizen has worked for the enactment and enforcement of laws to protect consumers, workers, and the public, particularly in the areas of public health and workplace safety.

As your agency has previously reported, 287 workers from the JBS beef plant in Hyrum tested positive for COVID-19 in a single weekend. Some of those workers who tested positive have reported they have been instructed to report back to work today. This news in and of itself is troubling. But we were particularly disturbed to see a report that Bear River Health Department (BRHD) spokesperson Josh Greer stated that “due to an April 28 executive order from Donald Trump declaring meatpacking an essential industry, only the U.S. Department of Agriculture may enforce closures or regulations upon them.”<sup>1</sup>

Mr. Greer’s statement is not correct. As USDA has explicitly stated, the President’s invocation of the Defense Production Act (DPA) does not preclude entities like BRHD from enforcing the laws within their jurisdictions. USDA’s website includes the following question and answer:

**Q: Can a county health department or state government shut down an FSIS-regulated establishment?**

**A: Yes, and FSIS will follow state and local health department decisions.**<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Steve Kent, *BRHD: Only feds can shut down meatpacking plants; 46 new COVID-10 cases Monday*, The Herald Journal, June 8, 2020 [https://www.hjnews.com/news/accidents\\_disaster/brhd-only-feds-can-shut-down-meatpacking-plants-46-new-covid-19-cases-monday/article\\_31f1a4af-6e15-5ac1-bc0e-0588aa4ceea2.html](https://www.hjnews.com/news/accidents_disaster/brhd-only-feds-can-shut-down-meatpacking-plants-46-new-covid-19-cases-monday/article_31f1a4af-6e15-5ac1-bc0e-0588aa4ceea2.html).

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.usda.gov/coronavirus/food-supply-chain#food-safety>



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USDA's statement reflects the fact that the President lacks authority, under the Defense Production Act or any other statute, to displace the BRHD's duties and obligations to protect the public's health.<sup>3</sup>

I hope that this information clarifies the impact (or lack thereof) of the April 28 Executive Order on BRHD's ability to protect members of the community, including workers at the JBS plant in Hyrum. I am happy to discuss this matter with you further at your convenience. I can be reached at 202-588-7790 or [apulver@citizen.org](mailto:apulver@citizen.org).

Sincerely,

Adam R. Pulver  
Public Citizen Litigation Group

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<sup>3</sup> See, e.g., Thomas Gremillion, *What does the Defense Production Act have to do with food?*, Food Safety News, May 25, 2020 (citing University of Texas law professor as to impact of the executive order); W. Jay DeVecchio, *Coronavirus Update: The Defense Production Act is Not a Contractor's Shield Against Local Shutdown Orders*, Government Contract Insights, Mar. 19, 2020, <https://govcon.mofo.com/coronavirus/coronavirus-update-the-defense-production-act-is-not-a-contractors-shield-against-local-shutdown-orders/> ("nothing in the DPA or its implementing regulations states or suggests that the DPA would take priority over any state or local health department directive or order"); Opinion of the Office of Legal Counsel of the Department of Justice, Legal Authorities Available to the President to Respond to a Severe Energy Supply Interruption or Other Substantial Reduction in Available Petroleum Products, 6 Op. O.L.C. 644, 702 (Nov. 15, 1982), <https://www.justice.gov/file/23221/download> (absent "direct conflict between state and federal directives," DPA does not confer authority upon President to preempt state law).



Lloyd Berentzen &lt;lloydber@brhd.org&gt;

---

## Role of CDC team

1 message

**Todd Barson** <tbarson@brhd.org>

Thu, Jun 11, 2020 at 4:13 PM

To: Angie White &lt;awhite@brhd.org&gt;, Mandi McBride &lt;mmcbride@brhd.org&gt;, Grant Koford &lt;gkoford@brhd.org&gt;, Alex Drungil &lt;adrungil@brhd.org&gt;

Cc: Lloyd Berentzen &lt;lloydber@brhd.org&gt;, Joshua Greer &lt;jgreer@brhd.org&gt;

Please read the attached info. This was the original information sent to CDC for the help we needed. I assume this is what the team will be expecting to do. Note that the epi's will be doing investigations. Angie and Mandi...we will need to plan on training them on our process.

See you all tomorrow at 3 pm in the south building or on Google Meets.

--

Todd Barson, Deputy Director  
Bear River Health Department  
655 East 1300 North  
Logan, UT 84341

tbarson@brhd.org  
435-792-6511

**CDC Team Request.docx**

20K

## **Bear River Health Department**

**Re: Request for 5 junior to mid-level CDC staff with multiple language skills to assist with outbreak in UT**

### **Identify Problem:**

- Meat packing plant in northern Utah (Hyrum City)
- Employs 1500 people. Implementing several screening measures.
- COVID is still spreading through the meat packing plant.
- Anecdotal reports of employees being required to work when sick.
- Local emergency rooms are being used by employees seeking treatment for symptoms and looking for notes to take to their employer.
- Approaching 100 cases at the plant. Several other cases are associated with JBS in some way.
- Hourly wage workers don't have a lot of options for economic security outside of their job and are most likely not disclosing to JBS that they are ill.
- Two severe illnesses to date.
- Most workers socialize together outside of work. Hard to disentangle exposure from work and social situations.
- Contact tracing is already at capacity at local level. UDOH is at capacity to be able to help with this.

### **Gaps:**

- Limited staff capacity.
- Small LHD with one full time epidemiologist and some part time epi workers.
- Refugee population language barriers. Majority of non-English speakers are Spanish speaking. Additional languages: Marshallese, Arabic, Karen, Tigre.

### **Where is the outbreak:**

JBS Beef  
410 N 200 W  
Hyrum, UT 84341

### **Staff needed:**

5 Mid Level Epidemiologists  
1 Lab Specialist  
1 NIOSH specialist  
Communications support (remotely)

### **Duties of team / specify:**

- Acts as case lead investigators.
- Makes initial contacts with persons identified in EpiTrax as a COVID positive case.
- Conducts initial case interview of COVID positive persons.
- Identifies contacts of COVID positive individuals.
- Puts individuals in isolation/quarantine and educates them on importance and need to comply.
- Conducts initial interview with contacts OR forwards contact information to Contact Tracers for initial interviewing.

- Coordinates with Contract Tracers and Support Staff to identify any housing, food, medical, or other support needed.
- Accurately enters investigation data into EpiTrax. Coordinates with Investigation Team Lead

**Language needed or special skills:**

- Spanish speaking.
- Additional languages include Marshallese, Arabic, Karen, Tigre
- Epi and investigation knowledge and experience.

**Who will supervise/support team on the ground?**

Administrative: Todd Barson, Deputy Director. Todd will work with team members on the logistics of work space, IT needs, and schedules.

Epi Team: Angie White, Lead Epidemiologist. Angie will work with team members on the day to day investigations process; supervision

Lab/Testing Specialist: Mandi McBride, Nursing Division Director. Mandi will work with the lab/Testing specialist on identifying appropriate testing strategies in worksites and hot spot areas.

NIOSH Specialist: Alex Drungil, Nursing Division Deputy Director. Alex will coordinate with the NIOSH specialist on worksite inspections and TA.

**Where will staff work, will there be work desk, computer, other tools needed to conduct work?**

South Logan building for the Epi staff. TBD for Lab/Testing and NIOSH Specialists. There will be a designated desk and work phone provided.

**What type of media assistance needed (to be done remotely)**

- Assistance with messaging to disparate communities on protecting them self from exposure, social distancing, etc.
- Assistance with messaging to community and media about meat packing plant outbreak
- Assistance with handling the different messages coming from employees and employer regarding workplace practices.
- Lessons learned from similar situations (ie Greeley, Colorado plant)
- Talking points for a meat packing industry & covid-19.
- Press releases, social media, etc. we will take whatever they can provide.

**Lab support?**

- Will need to do some testing on employees (possibly 2 more rounds of 1500)
- BRHD coordinates labs and testing with UDOH mobile units.

**Technical assistance needed:**

- CDC staff who have been involved with same company in TX and Greeley, CO (lessons learned)
- Communications and media assistance as stated above
- COVID investigation advice and TA



Lloyd Berentzen &lt;lloydber@brhd.org&gt;

---

## Role of CDC team

1 message

**Todd Barson** <tbarson@brhd.org>

Thu, Jun 11, 2020 at 4:13 PM

To: Angie White <awhite@brhd.org>, Mandi McBride <mmcbride@brhd.org>, Grant Koford <gkoford@brhd.org>, Alex Drungil <adrungil@brhd.org>

Cc: Lloyd Berentzen <lloydber@brhd.org>, Joshua Greer <jgreer@brhd.org>

Please read the attached info. This was the original information sent to CDC for the help we needed. I assume this is what the team will be expecting to do. Note that the epi's will be doing investigations. Angie and Mandi...we will need to plan on training them on our process.

See you all tomorrow at 3 pm in the south building or on Google Meets.

--

Todd Barson, Deputy Director  
Bear River Health Department  
655 East 1300 North  
Logan, UT 84341

tbarson@brhd.org  
435-792-6511



**CDC Team Request.docx**

20K



Lloyd Berentzen &lt;lloydber@brhd.org&gt;

---

**Fwd: Invitation: Drive Thru Immigration Day @ Mon Jun 15, 2020 1:30pm - 2:30pm (MDT) (sarah.fitzgerald@imail.org)**

1 message

---

**Holly Budge** <hbudge@brhd.org>

Tue, Jun 16, 2020 at 10:05 AM

To: Estee Hunt <ehunt@brhd.org>, Farrin Wiese <fwiese@brhd.org>, Grant Koford <gkoford@brhd.org>, Joshua Greer <jgreer@brhd.org>, Keith Larsen <klarsen@brhd.org>, Lisa Freund <lfreund@brhd.org>, Lloyd Berentzen <lloydber@brhd.org>, Mandi McBride <mmcbride@brhd.org>, Michael Weibel <mweibel@brhd.org>, Phil Collins <pcollins@brhd.org>, Todd Barson <tbarson@brhd.org>, Alex Drungil <adrungil@brhd.org>, Angie White <awhite@brhd.org>, Allena Pierce <apierce@brhd.org>

FYI....just wanted to let you know about the event we are helping with Saturday from 6-8 at the Cache County Fairgrounds for National Refugee Day. This is being coordinated with Liz Cruz from the Family Place/Hispanic Health Coalition.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Lance Frazier** <Lance.Frazier@imail.org>

Date: Tue, Jun 16, 2020 at 9:52 AM

Subject: Re: Invitation: Drive Thru Immigration Day @ Mon Jun 15, 2020 1:30pm - 2:30pm (MDT)  
(sarah.fitzgerald@imail.org)

To: hbudge@brhd.org <hbudge@brhd.org>, Nathan Alexander <Nathan.Alexander@imail.org>, monithunell@gmail.com <monithunell@gmail.com>, Sarah Fitzgerald <Sarah.Fitzgerald@imail.org>, sjr2@cdc.gov <sjr2@cdc.gov>, liz.cruz@thefamilyplaceutah.org <liz.cruz@thefamilyplaceutah.org>, Joshua Greer <jgreer@brhd.org>, janeen.allen@cachecounty.org <janeen.allen@cachecounty.org>, fhd4@cdc.gov <fhd4@cdc.gov>

Good job, Liz, the event was mentioned on the front page of the Herald Journal today:



# Talking with chalk

Chalk art blankets downtown Logan for World Refugee Day

By CHARLES MCCOLLUM  
staff writer

Pedestrians in downtown Logan are being treated to blocks and blocks of chalk art, compliments of two separate events over the weekend.

First came the participants in Saturday's Black Lives Matter rally, who surrounded the Historic Cache County Courthouse with declarations and images dedicated to the cause of racial equality. Then,

**Local**

on Sunday night, volunteers for the Cache Refugee and Immigrant Connection fanned out along Main Street between Center Street and 300 North to decorate the sidewalks in celebration of World Refugee Day, coming up on June 20.

The CRIC event was an activity organized by the local nonprofit after COVID-19 concerns led to cancellation of a car parade planned for June 20, and CRIC Executive Director McKenzie Bowcut said it was meant to serve as a backup for a community chalk drawing contest.

"We're going to be putting out on social media that we're inviting people to do the same. We want it to be sort of like a contest, and we have a T-shirt for the winner," Bowcut said. "We want to get community members to create their own chalk art welcoming refugees for World Refugee Day, and we'll post them on our social

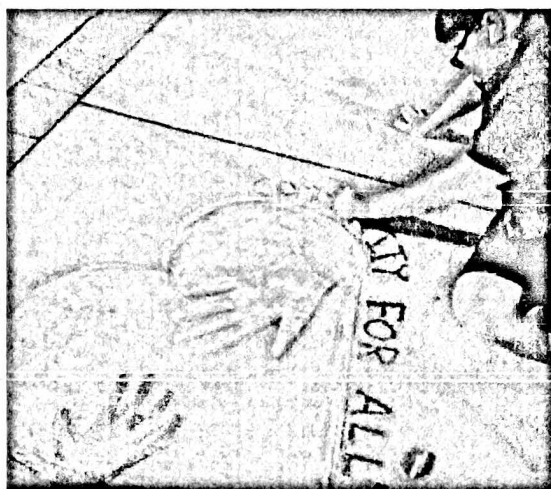


PHOTO COURTESY RANDY WILLIAMS

Owen Lambert draws a section of a "Diversity for All" symbol in one of dozens of chalk-art displays created along Main Street in Logan over the weekend.

media accounts and have people vote on which one is their favorite."

The T-shirt features CRIC's slogan, with the word "community" spelled out in different languages. The same motif is reproduced in many of the sidewalk designs, along with drawings of flowers, the globe, rainbows and slogans such as "We love diversity," "Don't hate, love," and "We welcome

refugees."

CRIC provides support services to a growing refugee community in Cache Valley that includes roughly 500 immigrants from Ethiopia, Somalia, Burma, Eritrea and several other politically unstable countries. Many of these refugees work at the JBS meatpacking plant in Hyrum, where a large COVID-19 outbreak has hammered the workforce.

CRIC volunteers have been delivering food and hygiene supplies to affected families. On Saturday, in conjunction with the Bear River Health Department and other community organizations, CRIC plans a drive-up distribution of care packages. The event, designed for both refugees and impacted JBS workers, will be from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Cache County Fairgrounds.

More CHALK | A2

Lance Frazier

Communications specialist

Logan Regional Hospital

1400 N 500 E

Logan UT 84341

435.716.5309



**Intermountain**  
Logan Regional Hospital



**From:** hbudge@brhd.org

**When:** 1:30 PM - 2:30 PM June 15, 2020

**Subject:** Invitation: Drive Thru Immigration Day @ Mon Jun 15, 2020 1:30pm - 2:30pm (MDT)  
(sarah.fitzgerald@imail.org)



Lance/Nate if you all can join this is a planning meeting to discuss a drive-thru health fair on Saturday for the Hispanic community that would be GREAT for us to be a part of.

Sarah Fitzgerald

Marketing & Communications

---

**From:** hbudge@brhd.org

**When:** 1:30 PM - 2:30 PM June 15, 2020

**Subject:** Invitation: Drive Thru Immigration Day @ Mon Jun 15, 2020 1:30pm - 2:30pm (MDT)  
(sarah.fitzgerald@imail.org)

WARNING: Stop. Think. Read. This is an external email.

**You have been invited to the following event.**

**Drive Thru Immigration Day**

When Mon Jun 15, 2020 1:30pm – 2:30pm Mountain Time - Denver

Joining info Join with Google Meet

[meet.google.com/ndd-ozsd-xaw](https://meet.google.com/ndd-ozsd-xaw)

Join by phone

+1 601-861-4467 (PIN: 139095675)

More phone numbers

Calendar [sarah.fitzgerald@imail.org](mailto:sarah.fitzgerald@imail.org)

Who

- Holly Budge - organizer
- [monithunell@gmail.com](mailto:monithunell@gmail.com)
- [sarah.fitzgerald@imail.org](mailto:sarah.fitzgerald@imail.org)
- [sjr2@cdc.gov](mailto:sjr2@cdc.gov)
- [liz.cruz@thefamilyplaceutah.org](mailto:liz.cruz@thefamilyplaceutah.org)
- Joshua Greer
- [janeen.allen@cachecounty.org](mailto:janeen.allen@cachecounty.org)
- [fhd4@cdc.gov](mailto:fhd4@cdc.gov)

**more details »**

Going ([sarah.fitzgerald@imail.org](mailto:sarah.fitzgerald@imail.org))? **Yes - Maybe - No** more options »

Invitation from Google Calendar

You are receiving this courtesy email at the account [sarah.fitzgerald@imail.org](mailto:sarah.fitzgerald@imail.org) because you are an attendee of this event.

To stop receiving future updates for this event, decline this event. Alternatively you can sign up for a Google account at <https://www.google.com/calendar/> and control your notification settings for your entire calendar.

Forwarding this invitation could allow any recipient to send a response to the organizer and be added to the guest list, or invite others regardless of their own invitation status, or to modify your RSVP. [Learn More.](#)

---

**From:** Holly Budge

**Sent:** Monday, June 15, 2020 6:13:22 PM (UTC) Coordinated Universal Time

**To:** Holly Budge; monithunell@gmail.com; Sarah Fitzgerald; sjr2@cdc.gov; liz.cruz@thefamilyplaceutah.org; Joshua Greer; janeen.allen@cachecounty.org; fhd4@cdc.gov

**Subject:** Invitation: Drive Thru Immigration Day @ Mon Jun 15, 2020 1:30pm - 2:30pm (MDT)  
(sarah.fitzgerald@imail.org)

**When:** Monday, June 15, 2020 7:30 PM-8:30 PM.

**Where:**

WARNING: Stop. Think. Read. This is an external email.

You have been invited to the following event.

### Drive Thru Immigration Day

When Mon Jun 15, 2020 1:30pm – 2:30pm Mountain Time - Denver

Joining info Join with Google Meet

[meet.google.com/ndd-ozsd-xaw](https://meet.google.com/ndd-ozsd-xaw)

Join by phone

+1 601-861-4467 (PIN: 139095675)

More phone numbers

Calendar sarah.fitzgerald@imail.org

Who

- Holly Budge - organizer
- [monithunell@gmail.com](mailto:monithunell@gmail.com)
- [sarah.fitzgerald@imail.org](mailto:sarah.fitzgerald@imail.org)
- [sjr2@cdc.gov](mailto:sjr2@cdc.gov)
- [liz.cruz@thefamilyplaceutah.org](mailto:liz.cruz@thefamilyplaceutah.org)
- Joshua Greer
- [janeen.allen@cachecounty.org](mailto:janeen.allen@cachecounty.org)
- [fhd4@cdc.gov](mailto:fhd4@cdc.gov)

**more details »**

Going ([sarah.fitzgerald@imail.org](mailto:sarah.fitzgerald@imail.org))? **Yes - Maybe - No** [more options »](#)

Invitation from Google Calendar

You are receiving this courtesy email at the account [sarah.fitzgerald@imail.org](mailto:sarah.fitzgerald@imail.org) because you are an attendee of this event.

To stop receiving future updates for this event, decline this event. Alternatively you can sign up for a Google account at <https://www.google.com/calendar/> and control your notification settings for your entire calendar.

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--

**Holly L. Budge, MS, CHES**

WIC Director

Bear River Health Department

655 E 1300 N

Logan, UT 84341

435-792-6513 (phone)

435-994-0821 (cell)

hbudge@brhd.org

*We now have extended office hours, Monday-Thursday from 8:00 AM until 6:00 PM and Friday from 8:00 AM until 1:00 PM*