

Special Town Council Meeting

December 4, 2020

10:00 AM

Town Council Chambers

Chair: Pete Muldoon

NOTICE: THE VIDEO AND AUDIO FOR THIS MEETING ARE STREAMED TO THE PUBLIC VIA THE INTERNET AND MOBILE DEVICES WITH VIEWS THAT ENCOMPASS ALL AREAS, PARTICIPANTS AND AUDIENCE MEMBERS. **PLEASE SILENCE ALL ELECTRONIC DEVICES DURING THE MEETING**

I. ZOOM LINK FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

To join, click the link or copy to your browser: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84153334509?pwd=Y002RG1KWS9zalMvcnVEbnJvL3FZUT09>

If the link does not work, join at [zoom.com](https://zoom.us) with Webinar ID **841 5333 4509** Password: **toj**

or join by phone **1.253 215 8782** with Webinar ID **841 5333 4509** and Passcode **478189**

II. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

III. COVID-19 AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT MEASURES

- A. Resolution Supporting Teton District Health Officer Recommendation for Limiting Gatherings

IV. ADJOURN

Please note that at any point during the meeting, the Chairman or Mayor may change the order of items listed on this agenda. In order to ensure that you are present at the time your item of interest is discussed, please join the meeting at the beginning to hear any changes to the schedule or agenda.

RESOLUTION 20-26

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING PUBLIC HEALTH RECOMMENDATION #12 REGARDING LIMITING GATHERINGS TO HOUSEHOLD GROUPS

WHEREAS, Dr. Travis Riddell, MD as the Teton District Health Officer, pursuant to Wyoming Statute §35-1-306(a), has enacted Recommendation #12 which recommends that gatherings be limited to household groups in order to help stop the spread of COVID. A “household group” is defined as a group of individuals who reside in the same residence. A “gathering” is any planned or spontaneous event, public or private, bringing together, or likely bringing together, people from outside a person’s household group in a single room or a single confined space (whether indoor or outdoor) at the same time. For clarification, persons should continue to go to work and to school, but should not gather outside of household groups that occur outside of work or school; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Riddell has requested the Town Council consider a resolution or other appropriate action to affirm this new recommendation and encourage its widespread adoption with the specific objective of slowing viral spread over the next two weeks in hopes that the leadership of our community can simultaneously speak in a unified voice in order to see greater compliance and therefore greater efficacy with this approach until such time as the State may sign on to specific variances to State Health Orders; and

WHEREAS, a significant number of Wyoming citizens are at risk of serious health complications, including death, from COVID-19. Although most individuals who contract COVID-19 do not become seriously ill, people with mild symptoms, and even asymptomatic persons with COVID-19, place other vulnerable members of the public at significant risk; and

WHEREAS, Teton County is an isolated rural community with a single small hospital with limited resources including only six (6) Intensive Care Unit beds and no critical care specialists such that caring for many patients with COVID-19 can compromise the ability of the healthcare system in Teton County to deliver the necessary healthcare to the public; and

WHEREAS, as of December 1, 2020, the number of active cases of COVID in Teton County is 161; and

WHEREAS, as of November 30, 2020 there are 11 current hospitalizations in the Primary Care Unit and 3 in the Intensive Care Unit of St. John’s Medical Center in Jackson, Wyoming; and

WHEREAS, as of November 29, 2020 the previous seven-day average of new cases in Teton County is 32.3 per day; and

WHEREAS, as of December 1, 2020, the two-week rolling average test positivity rate for Teton County is 9.67%; and

WHEREAS, St. John’s Health routinely serves patients not only from within Teton County but also many tourists and residents from Lincoln County, WY, Sublette County, WY, Fremont County, WY, and parts of Eastern Idaho who will further stress its capacity, making it critical that Teton County take steps to slow the spread of COVID-19 infection so as not to overwhelm the local healthcare system in such a way that would result in many preventable deaths; and

WHEREAS, limiting gatherings to household groups could substantially reduce transmission of COVID-19 throughout the community and thereby reduce the infection rate, the death toll, and the economic impact of the disease.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF JACKSON, WYOMING, having duly met on December 4, 2020, at a Special Town Council

Meeting, which was properly noticed and open to the public, and having fully considered the matter at hand, that:

The Jackson Town Council supports the Teton County Health Department and Dr. Travis Riddell, MD, MPH, the Teton District Health Officer, with regard to the public health recommendation that gatherings be limited to household groups in order to help stop the spread of COVID and strongly urge compliance therewith.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED this 4th day of December 2020.

TOWN OF JACKSON

Pete Muldoon, Mayor

ATTEST:

Sandra P. Birdyshaw, Town Clerk

DRAFT

RECOMMENDATION #12

RECOMMENDATION FROM the TETON DISTRICT HEALTH OFFICER

(Gather in Household Groups Only)

WHEREAS, Dr. Travis Riddell, MD serves as the Teton District Health Officer pursuant to Wyoming Statute §35-1-306(a); and

WHEREAS, the State Health Officer has issued Statewide Order #2 that limits gatherings to no more than 25 persons and based on recent events in Teton County the Teton District Health Officer is recommending that persons in Teton County should limit their gatherings to only household members; and

WHEREAS, "Household" is defined as a group of individuals who reside in the same residence; and

WHEREAS, as of December 2, 2020 the number of active cases of COVID in Teton County is 152; and

WHEREAS, as of December 3, 2020 there are 10 COVID related hospitalizations in the Primary Care Unit and 2 COVID related hospitalizations in the Intensive Care Unit of St. John's Health in Jackson, Wyoming. St. John's Health has only 6 Intensive Care Unit beds. St. John's Health is also presently experiencing multiple staff members being quarantined due to possible contacts with COVID positive persons and specifically 23 staff members being COVID positive; and

WHEREAS, as of December 2, 2020 the previous seven-day average of new cases in Teton County is 30.9; and

WHEREAS, as of December 2, 2020 the two-week rolling average of test positivity rate for Teton County is 9.65%; and

WHEREAS, the CEO of St. John's Health in Jackson, Wyoming has expressed concern for the ability of the hospital to handle any increased number of hospitalizations.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RECOMMENDED, that Gatherings should be limited to household groups in order to help stop the spread of COVID. A "household group" is defined as a group of individuals who reside in the same residence. A "gathering" is any planned or spontaneous event, public or private, bringing together, or likely bringing together, people from outside a person's household group in a single room or a single confined space (whether indoor or outdoor) at the same time. For clarification, persons should continue to go to work and to school, but should not gather outside of a household group that occurs outside of work or school.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This recommendation is effective December 3, 2020 and shall continue through December 15, 2020.

DATED THIS 3 DAY OF December, 2020.


Travis Riddell, MD, MPH
Teton District Health Officer