



SUMMIT COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF REPORT

DATE: November 9, 2022

TO: Summit County Council
Janna Young, Interim County Manager

FROM: Dr. Phil Bondurant, Summit County Health Director
Shelley Worley, Deputy Health Director

RE: Summit County Health Department – COVID-19 After Action Report

PURPOSE

The Summit County Health Department (SCHD) COVID-19 After Action Report (AAR) is a retrospective critique and analysis of the County's efforts to mitigate the negative outcomes associated with COVID-19. Starting in January 2020, the AAR identifies key information related to the COVID-19 response through May 2022. This analysis uses core Public Health Emergency Preparedness domains and capabilities created by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to evaluate the COVID-19 campaign in Summit County.

The intended outcome of the report is to highlight the strengths of the response and identify areas for improvement in an effort to be better prepared for future public health events through planning, training, exercises, and community preparedness.

The AAR report is offered in two different forms, a nine-page Executive Summary and the full AAR consisting of 25 pages. The appendices are included in a third document, which consists of 39 pages. All three documents are included in this staff report.

OVERVIEW

On April 1, 2022, based on the recommendation of the County Health Officer, the Summit County Council agreed to end the COVID-19 Emergency Declaration that had been in place for almost 26 months. On September 18, 2022, United States President Joe Biden declared the COVID-19 pandemic was over. After nearly 32 months, the COVID-19 response was no longer classified as a pandemic.

These dates are important as they mark the extended timeline of the COVID-19 response. AARs are intended to cover events with a defined duration or clear point of termination. However, given the longevity of the COVID-19 response, the traditional templates and guidance for the AAR process did not apply. SCHD staff were challenged to create a unique document that was representative of the response.

COALVILLE OFFICE
85 North 50 East, PO Box 128
Coalville, UT 84017
435-336-3234
Fax: 435-608-4383

PARK CITY OFFICE
650 Round Valley Drive
Park City, UT 84060
435-333-1500
Fax: 435-608-4489

KAMAS OFFICE
110 North Main
Kamas, UT 84036
435-783-3161
Fax: 435-608-4434



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To accomplish this task, the SCHD used the CDC's Six Domains of Preparedness as an evaluation framework. The AAR strategy described in the presentation are intended to:

- Record and review key COVID-19 response efforts by Summit County and the Summit County Health Department.
- Identify achievements, challenges, and gaps in public health emergency preparedness, response, and recovery actions.
- Strengthen future public health response capabilities in Summit County and the community.

Staff used this approach to identify areas of improvement, common themes, narratives, and actions related to the response. This effort has resulted in a comprehensive report that is focused on improving future public health emergency response and mitigation efforts.

CONCLUSION

The completion of the AAR is an important step in the pandemic response. While COVID-19 is still present in our communities, the availability of vaccines and other therapies capable of reducing negative outcomes has prompted the transition into the next phase of surveillance and monitoring. The completion of the AAR is the next step in the progression of this response and a key indicator that we are no longer operating in a pandemic.

We acknowledge and thank the community as a whole for their efforts over the last two and half years. There is a long list of those who helped, volunteered, assisted, contributed, and participated in the response. The success of this response is the result of the resilient people who committed to seeing this challenge through. The SCHD is forever grateful for the support we received during this time. Thank you.

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Fax: 435-608-4489

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