



**DATE:** February 26, 2021  
**TO:** Mayor and Council  
**FROM:** Ryan Mahoney, Town Manager  
**RE:** Weekly Update  
**CC:** Department Heads

Pitkin County and Eagle County are now both in Yellow on the new state [COVID dial](#). Progress is being made on the roll out the [5 Star Certification Program](#) which will allow businesses to seek certification to stay in a certain Level on the COVID dial, even if the local dial metrics (see below) push the dial to a more restrictive level. [State guidelines for Level Yellow](#) are available on the website for the Colorado Department of Health and Environment

# METRICS

## METRICS, REQUIREMENTS AND WHAT THEY MEAN

### *What determines your county's level of protection?*

#### Percent of positive cases

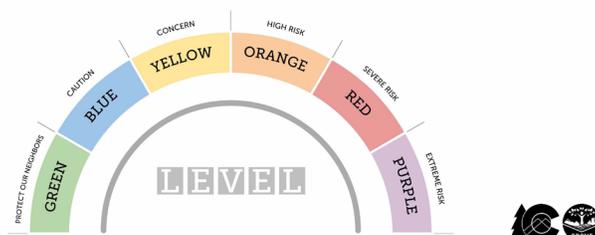
The percent positivity is defined as the percent of tests that come back positive, out of the total number of tests performed. The global standard to ensure that we are doing enough testing is a percent positivity of less than 5%.

#### Amount of cases in a one-week period

The 1-week incidence, per 100,000 population, helps us understand how much the virus is circulating in a community. This is the number of cases for every 100,000 people in the past week.

#### Stable or declining hospitalizations

One of our key goals is to ensure that every person who needs hospital care can receive it. This metric ensures that there is sufficient hospital capacity available. Stable is defined as no greater than a 25% increase in the county's referral hospitals or no more than 2 new hospital admissions with COVID-19 on a single day, in the past 7 days.



Town staff will be assisting Eagle County with inspections for the 5-Star Certification Program. All questions and applications will still need to go through Eagle County or Pitkin County.

Pitkin County Board of Health made changes to the required Traveler Affidavit program for those traveling to Pitkin County. The program name was changed to the Traveler Awareness Program, which was recommended by the Aspen Chamber Resort Association. Effective Friday, Mar. 5, 2021 visitors will still be required to fill out an agreement on the Pitkin County website and are encouraged, although not required, per CDC travel guidance to get tested before visiting Pitkin County.

The Colorado Department of Health and Environment released new event and [restaurant capacity projections](#) for this year. These show anticipated event and restaurant capacity associated with Blue and Green Levels on the state's COVID Dial.

## **Police**

We reported last week that police officer interviews are being conducted and we had a strong candidate to fill one of our vacant positions. A conditional offer of employment has been made to this person and we are awaiting their decision to come to work with us.

Starting this Sunday, the police department will begin publishing a Tip of the Week video on our Facebook page. Our first Tip of the Week will address vehicle idling. Please visit our page, <https://www.facebook.com/BasaltPolice>, to view the tip. We are planning to publish tips on a quarterly basis.

The police department would like to remind visitors and residents to use dog leashes when walking their furry friends on public right of way. The Town has four designated off-leash areas where dogs can run free. These off-leash areas are in Arbaney Park, Southside Park, a section of Linear Park in Willits (north of Meadow Drive) and Confluence Park on the Fryingpan River.

Chief Greg Knott participated in a virtual Colorado Association of Chiefs of Police board meeting. Greg is currently 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President for the Association. He will become President later this year in June. Goals of Greg's presidency will be development and implementation of programs to provide mental health support and mentoring opportunities to all chiefs in the State of Colorado.

Lieutenant Aaron Munch, Corporal Nino Santiago and Officer Jason Hegberg attended a Roaring Fork Regional Range (RFR) in-service training day. RFR is a collaborative training program between the Basalt, Snowmass Village and Aspen police departments along with the Pitkin County Sheriff's Office. Our training program provides all state mandated perishable skills training for officers and deputies in these four agencies.

## **Public Works**

The Public Works Department has been taking advantage of the dry weather to sweep up gravel and debris on the roads in East and West Basalt. Sal who moved over from facilities to the Streets Department has been training on the new street sweeper and he and Ryan have been brooming off the walkways into the road and then picking that debris up.

The Water Department has been working on bids for getting the new strainer installed at the water plant to help filter out ash and debris coming off the burn scar and into the spring boxes. With the anticipated development in East Basalt, we are preparing for five new water taps. A contractor is scheduled to repair a water main leak on March 8th that is located near 355 Gold Rivers Court. We are trying to take care of this before the groundwater comes up. We are working with Jeff Conklin to get an easement agreement from the homeowners in the area of our swinging bridge water line replacement.

We are structurally pruning and cleaning trees that obscure the sight lines in our right of ways throughout Town. We have completed the structural pruning on the large trees at the skate park and those look great. We are lining up a contractor to clean out the 4-bay storm water retention pond and we are currently drying it out right now. We will be diverting more of the water shortly with a pipe to help speed that process along. Until we get an access road installed the area around the 4-bay itself is too soft to run equipment on. This year we are looking at using a vacuum truck to remove the debris and will get cost estimates on building a stable access road to the site for next year.

There will be a new sewer line and manhole installed on Southside Drive in the next few weeks which will take about two weeks to complete and is part of the Stott's Mill infrastructure. We are still working through the street cut application and are close to approval on that.

## Planning

### Planning Update – February 26, 2021 Planning Updates

**Arbaney Pool-** The Planning Staff has been coordinating construction items and details with Rudd, SGM, and Connect One Design and POST as the pool renovation project is well underway. Provided below are some pictures of the Robot pool being built.



**Basalt River Park Development** – Staff has been working with the Applicants on the entitlement documents that need to be recorded and to work through details on the next steps for construction. Staff provided an update on the Basalt River Park Development and the Basalt River Park at the Council's February 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting.

**Basalt River Park Improvements** – Staff worked with the park and engineering consultants on details related to the park improvements, including access for service and maintenance by the Town and the Basalt Sanitation District.

**BACH** – Members worked on the annual report to Council, which will discuss 2020 accomplishments and 2021 goals, and followed up on proposed amendments to the Affordable Housing Livability Guidelines with the intent of bringing those to Council for a worksession next month. Staff has received inquiries into the Town's Emergency Rental Assistance Program and anticipates receiving a couple of applications in the coming days.

**Green Team** – The Eagle County Climate Action Collaborative had its first quarterly meeting of the year on Monday. The Director introduced the updated Climate Action Plan with its new timeline for action and categories with priority actions and strategies. She will be reaching out to local governments for discussion of the updated plan with Staff and boards in the near future. The Collaborative also heard presentations from Tim Sullivan, Director of Natural Climate Solutions at the Yampa Valley Sustainability Council, and from BEECH Initiative who is leading mobile home upgrades (fuel switching, etc.) in collaboration with NWCCOG.

Basalt Planning Staff met with CORE to discuss its new approach to the greenhouse gas inventory, which will result in a regional report as well as data for each community broken out separately. Other topics included regional meetings and beneficial electrification as well as progress on SolSmart designation. The Green Team also welcomed newly appointed members Martin Bonzi, Pranav Lakhina and Greg Smith.

**BPAC** – A “Request for Muralists” to create new works in Basalt this spring and early summer is closing on Monday. BPAC will review these requests at their meeting next Thursday. A portion of the future Arts Master Plan has been completed in draft form for BPAC’s review.

**POST** – The POST Committee met this week and discussed details on the Basalt River Park improvements and made several decisions regarding the pool and locker rooms. POST also heard updates on other projects and prepared for an upcoming worksession with Town Council.

**Basalt Chamber Sign Committee** – Town Council approved a resolution authorizing the Sign Committee and Staff to move forward with the East Entrance Sign project. Staff is now working to secure construction documents from the designers to put it out to bid.

**Lot 4 – Public Works Facility Improvements** – Staff worked with the Town Manager, Public Works, and the Consultants on the Site Plan Improvements and cost estimates for Phase I. Staff also worked with Sopris Engineering to finalize the information going into the CDOT Highway 82 Access Permit.

**Development Review/Applications** - Staff spent considerable time working on items associated with the initiation of construction at Stott’s Mill. Staff also spent time on our other construction projects throughout Town and addressing land use preapplication questions and development inquiries.

**Special Events** – Staff has been in contact with multiple groups who are motivated to hold special events this summer. Staff has been in contact with the counties, who now require their approval for events in Basalt, and are preparing for a changing regulatory and health landscape this summer.

## **Recreation**

## **Finance**

We are still busily working to close out the year, which will take another month or so to finalize. Accounts Payable for last year’s bills will be cut off next Tuesday, which will allow us to start finalizing capital costs and restricted expenses for 2020.

Ryan, Susan, and I have been ramping up the planning for Facility Needs Study work, reviewing a potential scope of work, timelines, and potential financing discussions for prioritized projects. We are looking forward to a detailed work session with Council on this topic scheduled for March 9. Finance Advisory Board will be reviewing the information next week to provide feedback.

Jenny and I are working through Equitable's retirement plan onboarding process. We remain hopeful that we will be able to have employee conversations in a month or so. Each of the Town's current retirement plans, as well as the Town's Third-Party Administrator, have been formally notified of this change.

The Town is still combatting many fraudulent unemployment claims amongst current staff and current/previous councilmembers. I have contacted each individual affected and have provided steps to take to protect each individual's personal credit. There have been over 1,000,000 fraudulent claims filed in the State of Colorado within the past few months, while there are only 150,000 verified claims currently outstanding. The State of Colorado is working with the FBI on this case. The State of Colorado does not believe there was a breach of their data, and that the data has been breached from unknown sources. I encourage everyone to check their credit with the three credit bureaus regularly.