



DATE: March 5, 2021
TO: Mayor and Council
FROM: Ryan Mahoney, Town Manager
RE: Weekly Update
CC: Department Heads

Pitkin County and Eagle County remain in Level Yellow on the state's [COVID dial](#). Progress is being made on the roll out the [5 Star Certification Program](#) however we have not had a request to inspect any businesses in Basalt yet. [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

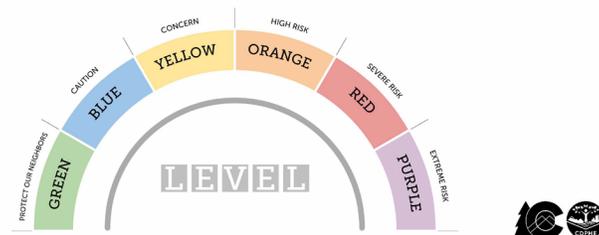
The percent positivity is defined as the percent of tests that come back positive, out of the total number of tests performed. The global standard to ensure that we are doing enough testing is a percent positivity of less than 5%.

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.

Vaccines are being received by both counties on a more consistent basis. Eagle County has opened up group 1B.4 for registration. It is expected that the Johnson and Johnson vaccine will now be distributed as well.

Town staff learned of Comcast internet outages earlier this week. The commercial downtown area and hill district are apparently on the same “node” which has become overwhelmed with the high demand resulting from many residents working from home. Comcast had been working on a temporary solution to fix the issue but will need to “split the node” which will take a bit longer. Staff asked Comcast for a timeline for these improvements. The following was the response we received last evening:

- Our crews worked through the day to address the noise issues we talked about, and ultimately, the node performed well throughout the day.
- Our team says that we’ve addressed the immediate issues, and they anticipate that the node will continue to perform well while we advance the node split/capacity work.
- Our Tech Ops leaders will continue to be on site in Basalt to monitor and test the system tomorrow.
- As you may or may not know, the area effected impacts a little less than 400 customers, but a large number of businesses, which represent roughly 100 of the 400.
- As for the node work, Engineering is moving on this as fast as they can. On a normal timeline, they do this work over 60-90 days, and our team is working to have it done in 7.

Police

Officers have begun making our off-leash enforcement contacts more formal. In the past we have made educational contacts and have issued verbal warnings, often to the same offenders. Officers are now advising violators that citations will be issued if their off-leash violations continue.

We are pleased to advise that Officer Evan Wagstrom has completed his field training program. Evan came to us with five years of prior law enforcement experience. Due to his experience, he was able to accelerate through our three-month training program. Congratulations Evan!

Officer Cortnay Young is progressing nicely through our field training program. She is halfway through the program and doing a great job. We look forward to having her go solo in early spring.

We have extended a conditional offer of employment to an applicant who comes to us with eight years of prior law enforcement experience. This individual currently works for a down valley law enforcement agency and is bilingual. We have begun the background investigation and hope to extend a full offer of employment in the next three weeks.

Our newly appointed School Resource Officer, Jason Hegberg, assisted with a lockout drill at the middle school. Students and staff followed our emergency operations plan and did a great job.

Chief Greg Knott, Lieutenant Aaron Munch and Corporal’s Nino Santiago and Thomas Wright participated in a four-hour Bureau of Reclamation, Ruedi Reservoir emergency response tabletop exercise. The exercise focused on an incident where the Boustead Water Diversion Tunnel had to be closed during spring runoff. The closure subsequently caused the Fryingpan River flow to be increased to 1,600 cubic feet per second. The increased river flow caused widespread flooding. We coordinated Town of Basalt evacuations and infrastructure protection during the tabletop exercise.

Public Works

The Public Works Team has been interviewing potential candidates for the Parks and streets Maintenance position this week and have narrowed it down to two candidates. Background checks are being run on both candidates and we plan to make an offer to one of them early next week. Both candidates should be able start that following Monday so we should have another employee on board shortly.

The Water department is wrapping up the quarterly state reporting and working with the contractor on the Stott's mill project. They completed a complicated section of line that needed to be sleeved and ran under a ditch culvert with some tricky elevations. We will be having a sub-contractor help us repair a water leak over in the Gold Rivers Ct. Subdivision on Monday and Tuesday of next week. Due to the high-water table where the leak is located it may be a bit of challenge to keep the pit dry, knowing that ahead of time we are prepared for that scenario. The water is planned to be turned off to the buildings in the Gold Rivers Court development on Tuesday between 8am and noon if everything goes as planned. Once we expose the leak on Monday, we should have a better idea on whether that schedule is realistic. We will be updating Town Hall as we go along in case we need to recommend updates to the public notice fliers. These were handed out to all the residences and businesses that will be affected.

Parks has been working on spring cleaning and setting up projects with the Roaring Fork Outdoor Volunteer group and Carbondale Community School (which has valley wide students). They are also working on a plan for the berm along Valley Road for hazard tree removals and shrub planting to beautify the area. Next week they will be working in the River Park thinning out some overgrown coyote willow that is crowding out other native species. They are also in the process of fixing irrigation lines and improving that system over at the new pool construction project in Arbaney Park.

Planning

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.

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 23rd 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. Planning and Public Works Staff also had discussions with the park consultants about the irrigation specifics and the Planning Staff had coordination meetings with Holy Cross regarding the removal of the overhead electric pole adjacent to the Basalt River Park.

BPAC – The Basalt Public Arts Commission met on Thursday to discuss the muralist submissions they received as part of a request for proposals to commission new murals this spring. Twelve proposals were received, from which BPAC made selections and directed Staff to begin negotiations with the artists.

Basalt Chamber Sign Committee – The Sign Committee provided direction to Staff to have construction drawings finalized so that the sign construction can be put 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. Staff is also working on completeness reviews on several development applications.

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.

Other – On Monday Staff attended a meeting hosted by FEMA for an understanding of flood insurance basics.

Recreation

Staff have been busy with the youth basketball season. 75 participants are enjoying instructional basketball and the much-needed gym time. The modified season will end on April 2nd.

After posting summer job positions, staff have been receiving applications for employment at the Arbaney Park Pool. Some of the previous summer seasonal employees will be returning.

Staff have reached out and scheduled a site visit of a fence repair company. We are asking for an estimate to repair the Basalt Middle School Tennis Court fence.

Staff have been working through the creation of a contract with our summer youth day camp provider Bear Bop.

Finance

Basalt Forward 2030 – A great deal of time has been spent over the past month by Ryan, Susan, James, and me to develop a project to recommend to Council that creates a pathway for the implementation of the Basalt Master Plan and much needed improvements to Town facilities. This aspirational project will include: 1. a Facility Needs Study for Town facilities, incorporating energy efficiency options and needed upgrades; 2. a Space Needs Assessment of Town facilities, which will identify facility space needs for Town staff now and in the future, and 3. the creation of a Capital Needs Committee to discuss prioritization of projects identified in the Basalt Master Plan and the Facility Needs Studies for Council consideration. This project includes many vehicles for public input, including the Capital Needs Committee, community surveys, Bang the Table, and other community outreach. The Town has an opportunity this year to keep its taxes the same and fund approximately \$11 million - \$14 million in projects, if the Town passes an election to renew property taxes from expiring bonds. This project will yield robust conversations of what projects are important to the Basalt community and ultimately to Council.

TACAW – Town Staff has been working with the Town's Attorney on revising the existing resolutions relating to TACAW funding from the Arts RETA. Staff will be recommending to Council the approval of revisions to existing resolutions that would authorize an additional \$350,000 contribution of the Arts RETA funds to be used for TACAW construction that is included in the 2021 budget, and an additional \$110,000 of the Arts RETA to be used as a start-up contribution in support of the Arts Center in 2021 or

2022 which will require a supplemental 2021 budget addition. The resolution also further defines the authorized expenses from and timing of the creation of the future TACA W Endowment Fund. These changes address the Strategic Work Plan goal of supporting a thriving arts and cultural community. Working with TACA W, staff believes that these changes strike a balance between construction and start-up assistance and the long-term vision of an endowment for TACA W using the Arts RETA funds.