



**DATE:** March 12, 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

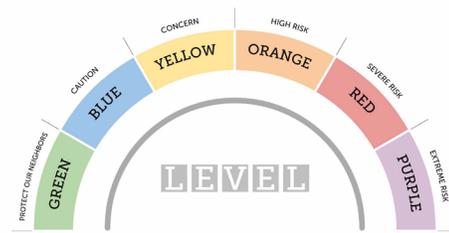
The percent positivity is defined as the percent of tests that come back positive, out of the total number of tests performed. The global standard to ensure that we are doing enough testing is a percent positivity of less than 5%.

### 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. Apparently, the doses received this week through Valley View Hospital were distributed and many first time doses were

distributed. We believe that vaccines will soon be widely available, and we will see restrictions being lifted at the state level.

Town staff learned of Comcast internet outages last 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. This week’s update includes the following:

- Comcast teams made significant progress over the weekend to address the “noise” coming into the node (ie: Signal disturbances), which means residents and businesses should experience better speed and connectivity.
- As for the node split work to add capacity, our team is targeting completion by end of week, but it could extend into mid-next week. Again, this will further help to provide more reliable/consistent connectivity and faster speeds. As mentioned previously, this work usually takes 60-90 days, but the team is working to complete it in roughly 7 days.

## **Police**

In last week’s report we provided information regarding the police department’s participation in a Bureau of Reclamation, Ruedi Reservoir, emergency response tabletop exercise. The tabletop exercise generated additional conversation concerning Fryingpan River flows and potential impacts on area residents, businesses and infrastructure. Chief Greg Knott along with Emergency Managers from Eagle and Pitkin County are contacting Bureau of Reclamation and Ruedi Water and Power Authority personnel to obtain information and data. We will use this data to create potential impact and evacuation zone maps based upon specific cubic feet per second releases from Ruedi Reservoir.

The police department has submitted our agency reaccreditation application with the Colorado Association of Chiefs of Police. We received original accreditation in 2016. In order to submit our application an agency self-assessment was completed by Lieutenant Aaron Munch to assure we remain in compliance with 212 accreditation standards. The next steps in the process will be a review of our application, by outside assessors, and a future site visit. We hope to receive reaccreditation by mid-summer.

As we move into spring, bears will be coming out of hibernation. They will be hungry and looking for easily accessible food sources. We want to remind residents and businesses to make sure trash receptacles are properly stored and secured. In previous years, the Town has done an excellent job securing trash containers to reduce bear/human conflicts. We can all do our part to keep bears out of Town by not making trash receptacles food sources.

## **Public Works**

Public Works, Planning, Finance and the Town Manager had a kickoff meeting with Cushing Terrel to begin the facility needs project. The Public Works Department is responsible for maintaining the Town’s facilities and will be integrated in the initial property assessment process. Our staff will be showing the town properties to the consultant team when they come for the first visit in the next week or two.

Basalt Water will be implementing Stage 1 water restrictions this spring in accordance with town code. Notice for the restrictions is required to be advertised in the newspaper and a yellow placard to be placed in the window of town hall. The restrictions will be in place throughout the irrigation season. The restrictions prohibit daily watering and include the following language.

- property addresses ending in odd numbers to water Wednesday, Friday, and Sunday only
- Property addresses ending in even numbers to water Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday only

## Planning

**Arboney 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 worked with the Developer and consultants on addressing technical issues.

**Basalt River Park Improvements** – Staff worked with the park and engineering consultants and Holy Cross on details related to the park improvements.

**BPAC** – Staff is working with the eight muralists selected by BPAC to create murals this spring. The repertoire of the selected artists is varied, and the Commission is expecting that these temporary murals will be appreciated in the community.

**Basalt Chamber Sign Committee** – Staff is working with the landscape architect to have construction documents created for the East Entrance Sign.

**BACH** – The Commission interviewed Applicant Mike Kosdrosky and made a favorable recommendation to bring to Council at an upcoming meeting. BACH also refined the proposed amendments to the Livability Guidelines, provided a recommendation to SHEC for a requested amendment to a lease length for a current tenant of the Willits Seven housing, and reviewed a request for Emergency Rental Assistance for a tenant of the Roaring Fork Apartments building. BACH is prepared for a work session with Council on March 23<sup>rd</sup> to provide updates and discuss their 2021 work plan.

**Basalt Early Childhood Coalition** – The Coalition discussed moving forward to gather data regarding the Basalt area childcare providers to help illustrate the need for additional capacity. A subcommittee will reconvene to return to work on the Needs Assessment that was put on hold in 2020 during the pandemic, which made information less reliable due to program closures, families out of work, etc. The Coalition will begin advancing initiatives by breaking work into subcommittees. It was stressed that numbers will help to provide the picture of true need, which can then be overlaid with potential program expansions (Little Blue and Honey Tree) and potential future programs such as in Stott's Mill.

**Green Team** – At Monday's meeting the Green Team discussed electrification and Codes. Staff will be meeting next week with CORE and the Southwest Energy Efficiency Project (SWEEP) to discuss furthering this initiative. The Green Team expressed interest in requirements for plastic reduction in Town and will have a check-in with Council on this topic in the coming months. BACH asked the Green Team to weigh in on a proposed amendment to the Town's Affordable Housing Livability Guidelines to require energy star appliances, and it was determined that since non-Energy Star rated appliances are now on par with Energy Star (per federal guidelines), the best bang for the buck would come from requiring LED lighting/fixtures and insulated window coverings. Holy Cross Energy is currently doing a soft roll out of their Tesla Powerwall program with a full roll out later this summer.

**Lot 4 – Public Works Facility Improvements** – The CDOT Highway 82 Access Permit was submitted on Monday.

**Development Review/Applications** - Staff spent considerable time working on items associated with the construction activities. 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 community organizations who are motivated to hold a slate of special events this summer and worked on details for the 2021 Sunday Market.

**Basalt Forward 2030** – Staff provided support to the Finance Director and Town Manager, participated in the kick-off meeting, and began organizing information for Cushing Terrell’s first visit.

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

## **Recreation**

Staff have been helping with and overseeing the youth basketball league. Game play will start next week with a live stream to Basalt Recreation’s Facebook page. Games are still just within the Basalt league.

Staff have been organizing and building the youth summer kids day camp programs. This summer program will be offered for up to 40 participants for the week with ten weeks scheduled from early June through mid-August. This program has been expanded from previous seasons registrants of 30 participants and just 6 weeks offered. Additionally, a new offering is in place for the 11–12-year-old age group. This new offering explores a bit more of the amenities that the Valley has to offer for four separate weeks. Registration for all the camp offerings will begin early next week.

## **Finance**

**Basalt Forward 2030** – Town Staff and Cushing Terrell had their kick-off meeting for the Basalt Forward 2030 project on Thursday. The group formed a plan for forging ahead on this project over the next few weeks. Cushing Terrell has the Town’s current capital improvement plan for 2021 as a starting point for the Facility Needs Study, and Staff is pulling together available floor plans and other documentation useful to Cushing Terrell as they become more familiar with the Town’s facilities. Cushing Terrell is planning their first visit for this project to the Town next week and is anticipating to do the facility walkthroughs by the last week of this month.

**2019 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report** – The Town applied for the exemplary status of Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the first time for its 2019 audit. Unfortunately, we did not receive the award for 2019, mostly due to recommended formatting and wording changes, not due to missing information. The auditors said that there is a very low approval rate the first time through. However, we are not discouraged. I believe in the adage “If at first you don’t succeed, try, try again.” We will make the recommended formatting changes and resubmit for approval for the 2020 audit.