

# THE UTAH LEADS TOGETHER PLAN

## URGENT PHASE PUBLIC HEALTH STRATEGY: CONTAIN THE SPREAD OF COVID-19

This phase involves a coordinated public health response, large-scale testing, and a historic economic stimulus.

ADHERENCE TO THIS PHASE WILL SHORTEN OTHER PHASES AND ACCELERATE RECOVERY.

**Goal:** Achieve a person-to-person transmission rate of 1 to 1 within 30 days and less than 1 to 1 within 45 to 60 days.

**Strategy:** Identify, contain, and reduce the virus' impact before Utah reaches a health care crisis.

**Background:** Current estimates suggest that to reach a less than 1 to 1 transmission rate, Utah must have no more than 800-1000 new statewide infections on or before April 30, 2020, with the number of new cases declining from that point forward. To reach the goal, Utah must continue the aggressive containment efforts currently in place to protect health care capacity and most vulnerable citizens.

In addition, Utah must ramp up testing capacity and build the infrastructure to identify, contact, and isolate those who have come in contact with the virus in order to bring down the transmission rate, while also allowing time for accelerated medical research and the advancement of medical breakthroughs to be administered to a wider population.

These efforts will curtail the current public health threat and accelerate the return of Utah's economic prosperity.

**Tactics:** Five tactics have been identified to create the structure, accountability, and speed necessary to achieve the Urgent Phase goal:

### 1. **Maintain Aggressive Social Distancing Measures**

– Reduce transmission rate to below 1 to 1, protect vulnerable populations and those who are not yet affected, allow businesses to continue operations based on adherence to established best practices and monitoring, and reduce risk from individuals entering the state.

- 2. Protect Hospital Capacity** – Protect critical resources directly involved in treatment and care and ensure hospital and ICU beds are available for the most at-risk patients.
- 3. Increase and Deploy Testing Capacity** – Ramp up testing to meet Urgent Phase goal in order to protect health care workers, diagnose and treat patients, and proactively trace and stop the spread of COVID-19.
- 4. Maintain the Supply of Essential Medical Items** – Ensure the continuous availability of critical supplies (masks, testing equipment, etc.).
- 5. Leverage Medical Advancements** – Ensure the use of medical breakthroughs to reduce the duration and impact of infected individuals to include the new application of existing drugs for vulnerable populations.

A designated strategy owner with decision-making authority has been assigned to oversee each of the five tactics. These individuals have also been granted the authority to draw on other agency resources as needed and to partner with the private sector and health care communities.

The Utah Governor's Office of Management and Budget will oversee the project management structure, creation of a dashboard, and dynamic modeling to monitor daily progress toward the transmission rate goal and other key indicators. They will also ensure ongoing coordination with the COVID-19 Economic Response Task Force and overarching COVID-19 Community Task Force. Employing this approach will bring intense focus on the few high-level leverage points necessary to ensure success while filtering out other important items that do not directly contribute to the Urgent Phase goal.