



# FRUITA COLORADO

## Weekly Info Update

To: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL  
From: MIKE BENNETT, CITY MANAGER  
Date: JANUARY 29, 2021  
Re: WEEKLY INFORMATION UPDATE



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### Tuesday's City Council Meeting

We have a bit of a light meeting scheduled for Tuesday night. We will begin the meeting with considering one item on the consent agenda, and then move on to the only public hearing item on a transfer of ownership for a liquor license. After reports and updates, the City Council will move into Executive Session for the formal review of the City Attorney. The meeting will be held virtually.

### Coronavirus Update

Below are a few updates, but I would strongly encourage all to continue to follow [www.fruita.org/covid19](http://www.fruita.org/covid19) for all updates we are posting. This also links to important Mesa County Public Health sources, as well as many others.


- **Webinar for Small Businesses on Relief Program.** On Monday, Governor Polis and the Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade hosted a webinar on the state and federal relief programs available to small businesses due to the pandemic. Topics included information on the Paycheck Protection Program, Small Business Administration relief programs, and more. The recorded version of the webinar can be found [here](#).
- **Vaccine Update from MCPH.** This week, Mesa County Public Health ("MCPH") released an update on the vaccine distribution in Mesa County. There is quite a bit of helpful information in the update, and we encourage those that are interested, to view the full release [here](#). Here are a few highlights:
  - Colorado is currently in phase 1 of vaccine distribution, and Mesa County is currently in phase 1A and 1B of vaccine distribution. Vaccine data is published weekly to the Vaccine Dashboard [here](#). This may change since the state just released an updated vaccine distribution chart – that chart can be found below.
  - The current priority group is a small number of remaining front-line health care workers, the majority of appointments are being filled by first responders, essential personnel in Phase 1B, and individuals 70 and older. An [interest form](#) on the MCPH website is available for individuals who have not been contacted through their employer, or those who are 70+.
  - Phase 2 is scheduled to begin this spring and Phase 3 is on track to begin this Summer if not sooner based on vaccine availability.
  - Cost is not a barrier. COVID-19 vaccines are provided free of charge; you may be asked for insurance information, if you have it, for administrative costs.

*Honor the Past – Envision the Future* **FRUITA**

- Questions about eligibility, interest, or registration for appointments can be emailed to [healthinfo@mesacounty.us](mailto:healthinfo@mesacounty.us) or call 248.6900.
- **Colorado launches new COVID-19 vaccine hotline.** This week, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment launched a call center for the public to ask questions specifically about the COVID-19 vaccine. Through the end of January, the vaccine call center is open Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., and 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., on weekends. Beginning in February, the call center will be open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The phone number is **1-877-268-2926**. More on Colorado's vaccine efforts can be found [here](#).
- **Questions about COVID-19 Variants?** Mesa County Public Health has been receiving several questions about the different COVID-19 variants, and this week, released a helpful newsletter with additional information on variants. The full newsletter can be found [here](#), and here are a few of the questions that are addressed.
  - **Question: Are these variants more contagious or do they cause more severe illness?**
    - Answer: The UK and South African variants appear to spread more easily and quickly than more common strains that cause COVID-19. There is no evidence that these variants cause more severe illness or increased risk of hospitalization or death than previous circulating strains. However, if the variant becomes the dominant COVID-19 virus in our state, we could see cases spread within our communities at a faster rate than in the past, which could lead to an overall rise in hospitalizations and deaths.
  - **Question: Should people still plan to get vaccinated despite the presence of this new variant?**
    - Answer: Yes. Scientists believe that the vaccine will be effective in providing immunity against these new variants.
  - **Question: Are there any different or additional symptoms associated with the new variants?**
    - Answer: Infections due to these new variants seem to have the same symptoms as the original COVID-19 strain. They can also cause asymptomatic infection.
  - **Question: What measures are necessary to prevent the spread of these new variants?**
    - Answer: The most effective ways to prevent the spread of any COVID-19 virus remain the same: wearing a mask in public, maintaining at least 6 feet of physical distance from others, limiting contact with anyone outside of your household, washing your hands often, and staying home when you are sick.
- **Vaccine Distribution Update from state of Colorado.** From MCPH: Governor Polis announced an update to the Covid-19 vaccine prioritization list. The main updates are:
  - Phase 1B will now be known as Phase 1B1, which is where we are right now. This phase includes Coloradans 70 and older, as well as moderate risk health care workers and first responders.
  - Phase 1B2 includes Coloradans ages 65-69, as well as PreK-12 educators and child care workers in licensed programs. \*\*They will be able to start getting vaccinated on February 8.\*\*

- Phase 1B3 includes frontline essential workers and Coloradans ages 16-64 with two or more high-risk conditions. \*\*They will be able to start getting vaccinated in early March, estimated by March 5th. \*\*
  - This announcement is in preparation for supplies to increase, however they remain limited at the current time. We are working through a waitlist of more than 15,000 individuals 70 years and older and they will continue to be our immediate priority. More info [here](#).

# COVID-19 VACCINE DISTRIBUTION



PHASE 1
❄️
WINTER
❄️
❄️
❄️
❄️
❄️

<b>1A</b>	<b>Highest-risk health care workers and individuals:</b>	» People who have direct contact with COVID-19 patients for 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period.	» Long-term care facility staff and residents.
<b>1B.1</b>	<b>Coloradans age 70+, moderate-risk health care workers, and first responders:</b>	» Health care workers with less direct contact with COVID-19 patients (e.g. home health, hospice, pharmacy, dental, etc.) and EMS.	» Firefighters, police, COVID-19 response personnel, correctional workers, and funeral services. » People age 70 and older.
<b>1B.2</b>	<b>Coloradans ages 65-69, pre-K-12 educators and child care workers in licensed child care programs, and continuity of state government:</b>	» Child care workers in licensed child care programs, teachers (full-time and substitutes), bus, food, counselors, administrative, safety and other support services offered inside the school.	» Members of the Executive and Judicial branches of state government. » People ages 65-69.
<b>1B.3</b>	<b>Frontline essential workers and people age 16-64 with two or more high risk conditions:</b>	» Frontline essential workers in food and agriculture, manufacturing, U.S.postal service, public transit and specialized transportation staff, grocery, public health, frontline essential human service workers, faith leaders, and direct care providers for Coloradans experiencing homelessness and essential frontline journalists.	» People 16-64 with 2 or more high risk conditions as listed: Coloradans with cancer (defined as patients who are currently receiving treatment or have received treatment within the last month for cancer), chronic kidney disease, COPD, diabetes mellitus, Down syndrome, specific heart conditions (heart failure, cardiomyopathies or coronary heart disease, and severe valvular/congenital heart disease), obesity (BMI $\geq 30\text{kg/m}^2$ ), pregnancy, sickle cell disease, solid organ transplant and people with disabilities that prevent them from wearing masks.

- In progress
  - Upcoming phase

REVISED DATE: 01/29/2021

**Please note:** As we move through phases, people in previous phases remain eligible.

## General Updates

- **Help Us Name Our New Trails!** Today is the deadline to submit your name ideas for the new trails that are being created throughout Fruita. With the help of grant funding from CDOT, staff has created four new routes around town that will guide bike and pedestrian traffic to points of interests. The new routes will include signage and markers to help with wayfinding. To fill out the survey and view a map of the trails, you can visit this [link](#). We look forward to the submissions and ideas!
- **Supervisor Training.** We convened our quarterly supervisory training meeting virtually this week that includes all supervisors Citywide. We have a great team, and it was motivating to hear all their updates and the forward moving progress. We also had a short training on decision making, utilizing the handout pasted below.
- **GJEP Coordination.** Dan and I met with Grand Junction Economic Development Staff this week to coordinate and update on development activities happening in Fruita and the area. We were able to update them on land use code updates as well.

## Engineering

- The pre-bid meeting for the Maple Street Improvements (from Pabor Ave to McCune) is scheduled for next Tuesday afternoon at 1:30 p.m. The bid opening will be held virtually next Friday, and more information on the project can be found at our website [here](#). We will report back on results on the bid opening here next Friday.
- The Mesa County ADA Ramps Phase III project will be conducted in Fruita on US 50 and Pine Street, on I-70 Front Road and the Rest Area, on CO 340 and the I-70 Ramp to Raptor Road, and on Aspen Avenue from Cherry Street to Willow Street.
  - Monday, February 1 to Wednesday February 3., work will consist of:
    - Southbound right turn lane closure on Pine Street on Westbound US 50
    - All intersections will maintain public access
    - Expect sidewalk closures at the Rest Area
    - Expect intermittent flagging during construction
    - All work is tentatively scheduled based on weather conditions
  - The project will be in operation Monday through Wednesday from 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. For more information or questions, you can email [region3ADARamps@gmail.com](mailto:region3ADARamps@gmail.com) or call 970-289-4072.

## Parks and Recreation

- After the Council workshop on Tuesday evening, staff and GreenPlay are going to work on tightening up the PHROST Master Plan. While we are already starting on this, we have not set a timeline for when we will bring it back to City Council but hope to do it sooner than later.
- As all should know, the roundabouts construction is set to begin in mid-February. That does not mean the Arts and Culture Board has stopped fundraising efforts for the sculptures. They, within the last two weeks, have raised approximately \$15,000 in cash and \$4,500 in in-kind donations. They have reached out to many local businesses for support and are waiting to hear back. They are preparing to launch an online fundraising campaign for individual donors in early March. Information will come out soon on that campaign.
- Don't forget – the Fruita Community Center is 10 years old! Ten years ago, this week, the FCC was swarming with visitors, trying the facility out – it was a free initial week before implementing pass fees began on February 1<sup>st</sup>. Some staff remember a hectic, sleepless week of excitement 😊. On Monday, the FCC will have a cake on hand and will provide a commemorative 'Rally Towel' for patrons who visit the FCC that day.
- Staff have worked with vendors, sponsors and others involved with the Mike the Headless Chicken Festival and have decided to move the Festival from June 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> to August 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. With moving the event back two and half months, it is hoped we will be able to offer a festival with less social distancing restricting in place; however, we recognize that there still may be some restriction in place and will be planning accordingly.
- Staff is working with other event organizers to ensure their events can proceed in a safe manner as well.

## **Planning & Development**

To see active reviews of current projects, you may visit: <https://www.fruita.org/cd/page/current-development-projects>

### **Land Use Code Amendments:**

- Vested Right Code Amendment (Approved)
- Development Agreements Code Amendment (Approved)
- [Zoning and Density Bonus Code Amendments](#). These Code Amendments are currently out for public comment and will be more formally noticed once public hearing dates are set.
- Short Term Rental Code Amendments can be found as this [page](#).
- [Parking Standards](#)
- Landscaping/ Irrigation Design Standards: The Fruita Planning Team has asked Design Workshop to work with their staff Landscape Architects to provide the City suggestions for a more sustainable approach to irrigation usage within residential and commercial development proposals.
- Design Standards: The links to the Code Amendments can be found at this [page](#).

### **Major/ Minor Subdivisions:**

- Dwell PUD Concept Plan (Approved)
- Bradyville Minor Subdivision (Approved)
- Cider Mills Preliminary Plan (Approved)

### **Site Design Review/ Other Applications:**

- Coloramo Site Design Review (333 W Aspen) (Completed and Open)
- Monument Powder Coating (1596 Cipolla) (Under Construction)
- Pediatric Dental Specialist (197 & 101 Jurassic) (Under Construction)
- Sycamore St ROW Vacation (Approved)
- Lithic Arts Building Site Design Review (Approved)
- Skalla Annexation, Zoning, and Minor Subdivision (Under Review)
- Grand Valley Estates 3, Zoning and Annexation
- Sunshine Short-Term Rental (Approved)

## **Public Works**

- Road Maintenance crews this week began work on replacing the irrigation culvert on I Road. Crews also completed an inspection of State Routes signs in town.
- Building Maintenance has also been busy lately with replacing carpet in the first floor of the Civic Center in engineering, and working on moving furniture back in. With this carpet installed, most of the carpet at the Civic Center has been replaced over the past couple of years.
- Staff continues to encounter problems with grease and rags at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. We encourage people to dispose of grease properly and to never dispose of it properly and never to dispose of it down the drain. People can also wipe plates dry of grease and throw it in the trash before washing plates.

**FRUITA IN THE NEWS (and regional news of impact to Fruita):**

- [Fruita Community Center turns 10.](#)
- [Business relief rolling into Mesa County.](#)
- [Mesa County receives \\$956,185 for the Small Business Relief Program.](#)
- [Mesa County jobless rate jumps.](#)
- [New clinic to open as COVID-19 vaccine supplies remain low.](#)
- [Grand Junction fights to keep Bureau of Land Management headquarters with its future under Biden unclear.](#)
- [COVID resiliency.](#)
- [Mass vaccination site opens at Grand Junction Convention Center.](#)
- [Timberline Bank begins second round draw for Paycheck Protection Program.](#)
- [Local officials urge BLM Headquarters to stay in Grand Junction.](#)
- [Governor announces more vaccines on their way.](#)
- [Got pain? Family Health West offers immediate, personalized care.](#)
- [Leaders Request Roundtable Discussion on BLM Headquarters.](#)
- [Applications sought for small business relief grants.](#)
- [You Can Help Name the New Bike and Pedestrian Routes in Fruita.](#)
- [President Foster announces retirement from Colorado Mesa.](#)
- [Grand Junction 911 center receives over 300k calls in 2021.](#)
- [Colorado State Patrol plans to hit the road more in 2021.](#)
- [Suspect arrested after foot pursuit in Colorado National Monument.](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccination Update.](#)
- [Commissioners Write to Gov. On Vaccine Distribution.](#)
- [Formers nurses, retirees rally to help Mesa County Public Health.](#)

**UPCOMING EVENTS** *(Please let Deb know if you plan to attend so we can make sure to post if multiple council members plan to attend. Deb would also be happy to RSVP for you when needed.):*

- **February 6, 2021** – Virtual White Iced Event to benefit District #51 Foundation. More information [here](#).
- **February 7-14, 2021** – Virtual Sweetheart 5K/10K Run.
- *Due to Public Health Orders in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, most events remain cancelled for the time being.*

CC. Department Directors

Do you have questions about anything in the Weekly Information Update? Please feel free to email us at [communications@fruita.org](mailto:communications@fruita.org)



# LEVEL ORANGE: HIGH RISK



## GUIDELINES AND RESTRICTIONS



### P-12 Schools

In-person suggested  
Counties are encouraged to prioritize in-person learning by suspending other extracurricular and recreational activities in order to preserve effective cohorting and minimize disruptions to in person learning



### Group Sports & Camps

Virtual, or outdoors in groups less than 10



### Higher Education

In-person, hybrid, or remote as appropriate



### Critical & Non Critical Retail

50% with increased curbside pick up, and delivery. Dedicated senior and at-risk hours encouraged.



### Restaurants

INDOORS: 25% capacity or 50 people †  
OUTDOORS: 6ft between parties outdoors, per local zoning



### Personal Services

25% capacity or 25 people †



### Offices

25% capacity, remote work is strongly encouraged



### Indoor Events & Entertainment

UNSEATED: 25% capacity or 50 person capacity (with calculator) †  
SEATED: 25% capacity or 50 people †



### Bars

Closed



### Outdoor Events & Entertainment

UNSEATED: 25% capacity or 75 people  
SEATED: 25% capacity or 75 people †



### Gyms/Fitness

25% capacity, 25 people indoors †, or outdoors in groups less than 10



### Outdoor Guided Services

25% capacity or 10 people †



**MESA COUNTY  
PUBLIC HEALTH**  

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**HOTLINE**  
**(970)683-2300**





**WHY FRUITA?** The City of Fruita focuses on three strategic outcomes built upon a base of providing quality core services.

**Quality of Place (QP)** The City of Fruita is a community where residents and visitors love where they are. The City strives to be a bike and pedestrian friendly community by providing a system of sidewalks, trails, and bike lanes that connect our parks, schools, neighborhoods, civic facilities, and commercial areas. We value safe neighborhoods, our geographic natural resources and landscapes, top tier education and healthcare, and we collaborate to provide quality essential infrastructure and services. We are an inclusive community of doers who enjoy active and healthy lifestyles.

**Economic Health (EH)** The City of Fruita strives to be financially sustainable by enabling a stable economy and supporting a diversity of businesses that offer well-paying jobs that attract educated employees. The City works to be fiscally responsible and continuously seeks ways to allocate resources to services and projects that have the highest impact on the City's priorities. We are the innovative leader for economic development in the Grand Valley.

**Lifestyle (L)** The City of Fruita fosters a fun and funky ambiance by celebrating the local arts, farm and ranching history, unique leisure opportunities, and family-friendly events and activities. As a city, we encourage a diversity of cultural opportunities, businesses, and recreational activities. We continue to improve and enhance recreational offerings from traditional to outdoor adventure sports and youth to adult activities. We are a family-friendly community with diverse cultural opportunities, businesses and recreational amenities where visitors feel like locals and locals play like visitors.



# FRUITA COLORADO



*City of Fruita staff strive to emulate these core behaviors in everything we do in order to show gratitude for public trust, build trust and maintain trust with the public, our partner agencies and with one another.*

## **We are Fruita. We are...**

**Fun**—This is such a critical behavior that impacts everything we do. If we are not having fun, we must ask why and recalculate and adjust. We must love what we do and where we work, live and play. We are positive and put forth focused effort to have a positive attitude. We are smiling. We are friendly. We enjoy serving the public and working together. We care about the experience those who interact with us internally and externally have.

**Respectful**—We are empathetic. We take an active interest in each other, residents, businesses and visitors. We listen. We talk one at a time. We compliment and build up others. We are tough on issues and easy on people. We recognize the role of City Council, Board and Commission Members, residents, supervisors, coworkers and customers. We are kind. We treat people with dignity. We embrace diversity and make every effort to think collectively.

**United**—We are a team. We focus on purpose and work together to achieve our goals. We communicate effectively with each other. We seek consensus, agree to disagree and move forward for the greater good. We support each other. We value partnerships that help us achieve our goals. We remember we are public stewards and serve. We are inclusive. We create synergy by recognizing our strengths and weaknesses and succeeding as a team.

**Innovative**—Simplicity is our key to innovation. We consider and explore alternatives to the way we've always done it. We are open to new ideas. We welcome calculated risk-taking and learning from our mistakes. We seek continuous improvement and welcome constructive feedback. We ask why and why not. We work to continually improve.

**Transparent**—We operate as an open book. We create, over communicate and reinforce clarity in our work. We are trustworthy. We assume a positive intent from others. We work with integrity. We seek ways to increase transparency internally and externally.

**Authentic**—We are unique. We are real. We are different. We are special. We are optimistic. We are exceptional and proud of it. We are comfortable being different. We are open-minded. We are honest. We embrace and value family. We live what we speak. We create clear expectations and work hard to manage those expectations.