

Covid-19 Report



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Salt Lake County Numbers

Cases	Trending	Vaccinations
Daily avg. past 7 days 371	65% Reduction in cases over the past 14 days	74% Ages 5+
Cases per 100,000 32		69% All ages

Questions

What is the Hilton doing to ensure good ventilation?

I spoke with the head of engineering, and he told me the room windows do not open but the main ventilation system that supplies the hotel has MERV 13 filters which are rated to filter out Covid particles. The individual rooms also have MERV 8 rated filters.

What is the Marriott doing for ventilation?

I haven't heard back from anyone at the Marriott.

Do all the Marriott guest rooms have windows that open to allow fresh air in from outside?

I haven't heard back from anyone at the Marriott.

What are the Hilton's rules on masking?

On Hilton's website it asks for their guests to follow all local guidelines with respect to mask wearing and social distancing. In Salt Lake County there are none currently.

What are the local (Salt Lake City, Salt Lake County, and Utah) rules about indoor masking? (No change)

Utah has no local restrictions or mask wearing requirements. Salt Lake County tried to implement a mask mandate, but the State Legislature rescinded it. This most likely will not change due to the Utah State Legislature preventing any local jurisdiction, such as a city or county, from making any restrictive Covid protocols. Private businesses can make their own Covid requirements such as requiring customers to wear masks.

Utah Covid News

With the decline in cases Utah will move into a new stage of the pandemic. The State will be closing testing sites and discontinuing daily case counts. Utah will be treating Covid like it does other seasonal viruses. The Governor also called on all businesses to cease mask and vaccine mandates for employees and guests.

Variants

Omicron cases are down significantly. In the past month, the US daily average went from 800,000 cases to 100,000, a reduction of 800%. This is certainly encouraging news, but with the decline of one variant another usually is set to take its place. Which in this case is BA.2.

A lot is still unknown about the emerging BA.2 variant but a new study is shedding some light. Researchers in Japan believe BA.2 can spread faster than Omicron and may produce a more severe illness due to its' ability to copy itself in cells faster than Omicron. Also, some of the treatments used for Omicron may not be as effective against BA.2.

Currently, only 4% of people in the US have BA.2 but it has spread more rapidly in the Philippines, Denmark, and South Africa. As it continues to spread around the world, we will gain more knowledge about its' traits and hopefully get an early warning much like we did with Omicron.



Travel info

Currently there are no travel restrictions within the US. To stay current on travel requirements from outside the US click the link below.

[US Travel Requirements](#)

Summary

Cases continue to drop in Salt Lake County. So far BA.2 is not showing to be a significant variant in Utah. Eventually, it will overtake Omicron as the dominant variant but it's unclear when that will happen. I think daily case counts will be lower than now at the time of the Pycon convention.