



## September 2020 UPHA E-NEWLETTER

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### *President's Message*

With the summer almost behind us, now is a great time to get involved with the Utah Public Health Association (UPHA). If you are not a member yet, we invite you to join us. UPHA is an organization that supports the development of the public health workforce and as such provides opportunities for earning CHES, MCHES, CPH, and other credentialing CEU's by providing an annual conference and advocacy training. COVID-19 unfortunately effected our conference plans this year as it did so many others, however we are looking forward to continuing our conferences in upcoming years as we adapt to new circumstances. For those who are members, we encourage joining one of our excellent Professional Sections. These include: Community Health Worker, Nutrition Section, and the Student Assembly. Public Health professional are critical to a healthy community and members are the backbone of the organization. Your involvement in UPHA can make a difference. - Patty Cross, Board President

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### *Welcome Back to School*



- Read the COVID-19 school manual [here](#).
- Read the State Public Health Order for masks while in school [here](#).
- If you want to read what the Universities are saying click [here](#).

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## COVID Updates and Resources

Governor Herbert continues the state of emergency in Utah on a month-to-month basis. This allows for more flexibility when dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic. This allows him to re-issue executive orders, purchase emergency supplies, and utilize the National Guard. Although the State Legislature did not agree this needed to be extended they stated, had we not, it would have made Utah the only state not to extend the order. You can read it [here](#).

Salt Lake County extends the mask mandate until the end of 2020, read about it [here](#).

**UPHA continues to stand behind our public health professionals who work tirelessly to create conditions where all Utahns can be as healthy as possible.**

UPHA is committed to the health and safety of all communities and shares our concern for humanity at this time.

[Visit the COVID page on the UPHA website to find current information from the front lines, news articles, resources, My Story, ways to serve, and tips for staying healthy.](#)

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## #SpeakForHealth

Read about the APHA's [#SpeakForHealth](#) campaign, where they are giving public health professionals a stronger voice in public health advocacy. APHA is leading the way in Washington. Their policies are driven by members and based in science and research. Read what they are doing to improve our lives for years. Learn what questions to ask your congressmen and how to stand up for public health in your community.

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## Advocacy Updates

The Utah State Legislature met on August 20th for an emergency special session. One of the bills discussed during the session included having the qualifications adjusted for the Utah Department of Health's (UDOH) Executive Director's position. The UPHA Board submitted this [letter](#), highlighting various concerns and considerations. The final passage of [S.B.6006](#) included an amendment to allow UDOH to have a non-physician hold the place of Executive Director, if the organization selected a Deputy Director that was a physician with a background in public health.

- Thank you to all UPHA members who have taken the survey about your experience working in public health at this moment. We are currently analyzing the results and if you haven't yet taken it, please take a moment to [complete the survey](#).

[Click HERE](#) to review meeting agendas, minutes, and other planning documents for the 2020-2021 UPHA Policy Unit activities.

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## Section Updates



## [Nutrition Section Survey](#)

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## Spotlights



Jessica Strong, MPH, MCHES works at Primary Children's Medical Center as the Community Health Manager. She chose public health as a profession because she has always been interested in health and loves the preventative angle it takes (an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure). She's made a goal to visit every national park in Utah within a year and has three done already. If money weren't an issue she would love to run a grant-making foundation, giving money to good causes. She's worked on multiple rewarding projects, but most recently she organized an effort to take unused donated cloth masks to local school districts and families in need. She loves all garden foods, and the best thing she's done in her life is marry her partner who she states is "supportive of my dreams." To relax she runs and since Covid hit that has not only increased, but has been essential to her sanity. As to why someone should join UPHA she states, "Networking. I love connecting with other health professionals, learning about cool new projects, and the sense of community within UPHA."

Susan Akok, one of our Community Health Workers, works as a COVID-19 Outreach and Partnership Coordinator and is super excited to work with the UPHA-CHW Section in the State of Utah. She will be conducting outreach and building partnerships with the community based health

organizations we have within our community. She is looking forward to preventing the spread of COVID-19 within under-served and underrepresented communities in Utah.

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## What Else You Need to Know . . .

- Learn more about the [USOPHE Fall Conference](#) on October 7th.
- Learn more about the [SOPHE Advocacy Summit](#) on October 13-14th.
- [The APHA 2020 Annual Meeting and Expo](#), Oct 24-28 in San Francisco will be an ALL VIRTUAL EVENT. Registration is open.
- Keep up to date on the COVID-19 case counts and other important information at [coronavirus.utah.gov](https://coronavirus.utah.gov).
- If you, a family member, or someone you know doesn't have health insurance, Take Care Utah may be able to help. There are a variety of remote enrollment options available. [Click HERE to learn more](#).
- Due to increased demand on food pantries, Salt Lake County Health Department, in partnership with AQUEHS Corp, launched [FeedUt.org](https://FeedUt.org). The site helps residents find the nearest food service locations.
- ASTHO is offering webinars in September for Public Health Leaders in the Era of COVID-19 Click [HERE](#) to learn more.
- The Utah Strong Recovery Project: Free help for COVID-19 related stress. [Click here to learn more](#).

SOPHE webinars calendar for September [Click here for more information](#).