# SERVICE SLOWS SPREAD



#### EVERYDAY ACTS OF SERVICE PROTECT FAMILIES, FRIENDS, AND COMMUNITIES ACROSS UTAH

Hoping to contribute to the wellbeing of their communities, Utahns have adapted to new conditions with service front-of-mind. Personal sacrifice is the daily experience of many, with the Covid-19 pandemic creating unprecedented opportunities for public service by prioritizing public health.

Service has been the common experience of educators and medical study professionals who see firsthand the devastating effects of Covid-19 throughout our community.

#### MANAGING CONSTANT CHANGE: TEACHERS BALANCE THE NEEDS OF THEIR OWN CHILDREN WITH THE NEEDS OF OTHERS.

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A few weeks ago, Andrea Hinojosa and her family learned her husband tested positive for Covid-19. The news alarmed the family due to the risks of the virus, but it also struck a chord of anxiety: Andrea, her husband, and their three children would need to figure out how to balance quarantine, work, child care, and the fallout from the positive result and exposure. For the Hinojosas, this meant their three children, all under the age of six would quarantine and attend school virtually while staying with Andrea's parents. This was a strategy they hoped would limit spread and allow the least disruption to the Hinojosa's children and Andrea's many high school students.

As a history teacher in Jordan School District, the disruptions to Andrea's work have been constant. To accommodate all learners, she teaches both in-person and virtually—effectively doubling her responsibilities to students to ensure she reaches every child. So far, the school has gone fully virtual twice due to high case counts. Due to Andrea's exposure, she recently adopted a third teaching strategy: streaming live from home to an in-person class of students.

Andrea is willing to try anything to reach her students this year, but she says it's hard on her self-esteem. Students aren't taking as many chances to achieve. The reality is, each positive case and potential exposure creates a cascade of anxiety throughout the learning environment.

 Corporation for National and Community Service, 2018 volunteer rates (https://www.nationalservice.gov/serve/via/rankings)

02. WalletHub analysis by Adam McCann (https://wallethub.com/edu/most-and-least-charitable-states/8555)

### EVERY UTAHN CAN FIND A WAY TO SERVE OTHERS DURING THE PANDEMIC.

Utah is ranked as the top state for volunteerism, with 51% of population volunteering annually.1 The state is also ranked highest for total percent of donated income and highest percent of the population who donate.2 Utah has held onto these titles for years, wearing them like a badge of honor. Now, more than ever, every Utahn can give to their community by following public health guidance.



#### **CONTACT TRACING IN SCHOOLS**

01. HEALTHCARE PROVIDER NOTIFIES CONTACT 1: **IMMUNOCOMPROMISED** HEALTH DEPARTMENT О TEACHER 02. STUDENT OR TEACHER? CONTACT 2: 03. SCHOOL DISTRICT NOTIFIED STUDENT WHO LIVES О WITH GRANDPARENTS 04. ALL INTERACTIONS DEEMED CLOSE CONTACT DETERMINED CONTACT 3: 05. HEALTH DEPARTMENT STUDENT LIVES WITH RECOMMENDS DISMISSALS COLLEGE-AGED SIBLING

Having seen firsthand the impacts on her students, Andrea and her husband were willing to sacrifice a few weeks of family separation just to ease any additional impacts on others in their community.

#### PART OF THE SOLUTION: YOUNG ADULTS FIND PURPOSE THROUGH COMMUNITY-BASED ACTION

Abhi Harikumar, an Information Systems major at the University of Utah, says he feels a responsibility to try and understand what people are experiencing outside of his own life. After several months working for the Utah Health and Economic Recovery (HERO) Project, he sees first hand how following public health advice is the ultimate act of service and caring for our community.

When the pandemic began. Abhi and other students working for the HERO Project sought to be part of the solution in Utah, with over 90 students serving as the dedicated labor force for the HERO Project. Starting in May 2020, students began knocking door-to-door and manning drive through test sites in order to collect better data about the spread of Covid-19 across Utah. Madison Dillon, a graduate student studying Public Health at Brigham Young University (BYU), describes the HERO Project as an example of what she'd like to see throughout Utah:people working together for the common good with mutual respect and a common purpose.

The HERO Project is using antibody testing to better understand the true rate of infection in the state. The efforts of this massive undertaking to test across Utah have provided important findings for decision makers.

Since the project began Madison and Abhi have developed a deep sense of empathy for those more closely impacted by Covid-19. Madison recalls meeting an elderly man in the parking lot of a testing site where he stopped twice per day to clean the window of his wife's nursing home residence just to maintain connection. After hearing about the devastating losses of HERO Project participants driving through tents to get tested, Abhi describes how much it bothers him to think about grieving families seeing others denying the seriousness of the virus. "My heart really does break for everyone that has lost someone to Covid, and they have to see people just functionally not care about it."

03. United States Bureau of Labor Statistics. 2020. Labor Force Statistics from the Current Population Survey Household Data: Annual Averages: 11. Employed Persons by Detailed Occupation, Race, Sex, and Hispanic or Latino



**CLINICAL TESTING** DETECTED ROUGHLY



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**UP TO** 

## **OF UTAH** STUDENTS

ATTENDING SCHOOLS MAY BE ASYMPTOMATICALLY INFECTED