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**For Immediate Release**

## **Utah Petroleum Industry Response To COVID-19**

*Oil and gas sector continues to work closely with state and local officials to ensure safety, share information, and meet critical infrastructure needs*

**Salt Lake City, Utah** (March 24, 2020) — The impacts of the COVID-19 virus have been felt in nearly every facet of daily life in America. The oil and gas industry in Utah, upstream, midstream and downstream companies, are continuing to meet energy demands while mobilizing crisis management teams and installing enhanced safety measures that protect the health of industry workers and neighbors.

The Utah Petroleum Association, the industry's voice in Utah, has shared these measures with Governor Gary Herbert and stands ready to partner on critical infrastructure needs. Governor Herbert's team has organized a working group to discuss critical infrastructure and the oil and gas industry is participating with others to find workable solutions to help Utah through this difficult time. Also, senior level leaders within the industry are meeting regularly and monitoring developments related to the virus.

As of March 24, crude oil production is continuing to maintain current production levels while refiners are operating on normal schedules and supplying the market as usual.

"The industry is in close and regular contact with the Governor's Administration to ensure government, first responders, citizens and businesses have access to reliable energy and critical infrastructure" said Rikki Hrenko-Browning, President of the Utah Petroleum Association. "I would also like to thank our operators who continue to prioritize safety as they work to provide all Utah residents with energy that powers our way of life. Our industry's top priority will always be the health and safety of their workforce, partners and the communities in where we operate."

New safety measures in place at statewide industry facilities include:

1. Communications to industry employees have included guidance on protecting themselves and community members through proper hygiene and social distancing as well as referencing <https://coronavirus.utah.gov/faq/>.
2. Nearly all meetings (internal and with clients) have been moved to be remote. All individuals who are able to work from home have been doing so since Monday, March 16 and will continue to do so until at least Friday, March 27th - this timeline will be re-evaluated and extended if needed.
3. For those field and refinery operations staff that must carry out their onsite obligations, they are regularly reminded of the CDC guidance for doing so, and are also following OSHAS guidance <https://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3990.pdf>.



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4. Screening procedures, including temperature screenings, have been established at facility entrances.
5. On-site accommodations and protocol have been established to manage individuals reporting flu-like symptoms while at work.
6. Janitorial services have increased the frequency of shared-space cleaning.
7. On-site services (Cafeteria, Fitness Center, etc.) have been closed until further notice.
8. No business travel is allowed, and if employees are out on PTO travel they are required to self-quarantine for 14 days.

Utah's petroleum industry is proud of the vital role it plays throughout the state and is committed to ensuring safety and security in the communities where it operates. To that end:

1. Crude oil producers are continuing to maintain existing base production, including proper maintenance and repairs.
2. Refineries are continuing operations according to normal schedules and are continuing to supply the market as usual. Essential personnel have been identified and special precautions are being taken to ensure their continued health and safety.
3. Fuel delivery operations are continuing to run as usual. Trucks are delivering products to retailers and commercial customers.
4. Gas stations generally remain open for business, subject to any local, state, or federal restrictions.

If you have questions regarding the sector's response to the COVID-19 virus, please contact Rikki Hrenko-Browning at [rhenko-browning@utahpetroleum.org](mailto:rhenko-browning@utahpetroleum.org).

### **About the Utah Petroleum Association**

*The Utah Petroleum Association (UPA) is comprised of companies from every segment of the petroleum industry who work cooperatively to resolve mutual problems and provide a unified voice for the advancement and improvement of the oil and gas industry in Utah. UPA was founded in 1958 and continues today as the voice of Utah's oil and natural gas industries. We seek to promote the responsible development of Utah's vast natural resources and the manufacture of fuels that keep Utah families and businesses moving.*

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