



# MESA COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH

*Working Together for a Healthy Community*

## GUIDANCE FOR OUTDOOR EVENTS July 15, 2020

Mesa County is allowing certain outdoor events to take place provided they can meet social distancing requirements. The guidance is divided by event type:

- Community race-type events
- Outdoor events with limited participant movement (concerts or any stage performances)
- Outdoor events with high participant movement (festivals, markets, etc.)

Implement the following guidance when planning for your event. **Mesa County Public Health must review your plan at least two weeks prior to the day of the event. Send your plan to [healthinfo@mesacounty.us](mailto:healthinfo@mesacounty.us).**

Mesa County Public Health is closely monitoring key indicators for COVID-19 such as positivity rate and available hospital resources. In the event that these key indicators show an unusual spike, Mesa County Public Health may cancel all events without prior notification.

This guidance could be updated at any time with additional details and information. It is the event coordinator's responsibility to stay-up-to-date and to incorporate new guidelines as they are released.

Failure to follow the guidelines set forth in this document will result in immediate event closure and may result in an increased risk of liability related to participants who contract COVID-19 at the event.

### **GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS:**

**Demographics** - older adults and vulnerable populations are at greater risk for COVID-19. Individuals at higher risk for severe COVID-19 should consider taking additional protections or staying home during this time.

**Number of people attending** - the risk for COVID-19 increases proportionately with the number of attendees. Event-participant numbers must stay below 50% of normal facility capacity.

**Length of time** - longer events create a greater risk for contracting COVID-19.

**Venue location** - outdoor events are considered to have less risk for disease transmission.

**Venue size** - larger venues allow for better social distancing.

**Visitors** - people from outside of the community pose a greater risk to Mesa County residents, especially those coming from areas where there is high incidence of disease. Events are limited to Mesa County and Western Colorado residents only; specifically, residents of the following counties: Mesa, Montrose, Delta, Garfield, Pitkin, Rio Blanco, Gunnison, Ouray, and Eagle.

**Non-Compliance** - events will be monitored by Mesa County Public Health Officials. If you are not following the procedures outlined in this document, you may be required to close. This information may be updated with additional guidance and information based on changes to local and/or State orders.

### **COMMUNITY RACE-TYPE EVENTS (Running Races, Cycling Races, Obstacle Courses, etc.)**

#### **Event Attendees/Registration:**

- The event must be limited to Western Colorado residents only; specifically, residents of the following counties: Mesa, Montrose, Delta, Garfield, Pitkin, Rio Blanco, Gunnison, Ouray, and Eagle.
- Pre-registration is required for all events. There must be a name, phone number, and county of residence for every individual registered to attend the event.
- A list of participants must be sent to [healthinfo@mesacounty.us](mailto:healthinfo@mesacounty.us) prior to the start of the event.

#### **Face Coverings:**

- Employees, contracted workers, and volunteers whose duties include close contact with members of the public must wear a non-medical cloth face covering over the nose and mouth.
- Participants must wear non-medical cloth face coverings when physical distancing cannot be maintained within the facility, such as upon entrance to the event and at certain times while moving about the facility.

#### **Cleaning and Hygiene:**

- Encourage frequent hand washing through signage.
- Double the normal number of portable toilets, handwashing, and hand sanitizer stations (call Mesa County Public Health for help calculating the necessary numbers).
- High-touch areas must be sanitized hourly.
- Shared equipment must be disinfected after each use (e.g., radios, sales transaction devices, computers).

#### **Symptom monitoring:**

- Implement a health monitoring system to ensure employees, volunteers, and participants remove themselves if they have **a cough or shortness of breath/difficulty breathing**, OR any two of the following fever (there should be a thermometer on hand), chills, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, a recent loss of taste or smell.
- Promote COVID-19 testing among your employees, volunteers, and participants so they get scheduled for sampling should they develop symptoms after the event.
  - People can contact their health care provider or call 970-683-2300 to schedule an appointment.

#### **Packet pick-up:**

- Packet pick-up via mail is the preferred option.
- If onsite pick-up is necessary:
  - Do it prior to the day of the event to minimize the number of people congregating on the day of the event.
  - Designate staggered pick-up times.
- If day-of-event pick-up is the only option, implement the following social distancing protocols:
  - Organize the facility or space by arranging equipment and furniture to not only address the 50% occupant requirement but to also promote a distance of at least six feet between individuals.
  - Post signs at entrances requiring visitors to wear cloth face coverings, and to exclude themselves if they are experiencing symptoms.
  - Implement one-way entry and exit, and directional walkways.
  - Use physical barriers in close-contact settings (e.g. packet pick up). Physical barriers can be plexiglass or a table in front of a station to promote physical distancing.
  - Eliminate opportunities for people to congregate or stand in lines by staggering visitors with an appointment system.
  - Tape or markings must be used to help participants maintain distancing.
  - Participants must wear non-medical cloth face coverings and must keep their face coverings in place when physical distancing cannot be maintained.

#### **Day-of-Event Activities:**

- Limit the event activities to those that meet the main purpose of the event (e.g., bike ride, run, training).
- Stagger start times by assigning people to waves of 50 or less with appropriate social distancing.
- Participants must wear non-medical cloth face coverings and must keep their face coverings in place until their wave enters the course.
- Double the number of aid-stations to reduce congregating and overcrowding.
- Eliminate pre and post-event activities such as beer gardens, award ceremonies, race expos, etc.

#### **Spectators in Stadiums or Similar Venues:**

- Limit the number of spectators to 50% of your seating capacity with social distancing.
- Place markings on bleachers or in the seating area to allow for 6 feet distance between non-household members.

## **OUTDOOR EVENTS IN WHICH THERE WILL BE LIMITED PARTICIPANT MOVEMENT**

This applies to any event with a stage in which participants are mostly seated.

### **Event Attendees/Registration:**

- The event must be limited to Western Colorado residents only; specifically, residents of the following counties: Mesa, Montrose, Delta, Garfield, Pitkin, Rio Blanco, Gunnison, Ouray, and Eagle.
- Pre-registration is required for all events. There must be a name, phone number, and county of residence for every individual registered to attend the event.
- A list of participants must be sent to [healthinfo@mesacounty.us](mailto:healthinfo@mesacounty.us) prior to the start of the event.

### **Face Coverings:**

- Employees, contracted workers, and volunteers whose duties include close contact with members of the public must wear a non-medical cloth face covering over the nose and mouth.
- Participants must wear non-medical cloth face coverings when physical distancing cannot be maintained within the facility, such as upon entrance to the event and at certain times while moving about the facility.

### **Cleaning and Hygiene:**

- Encourage frequent hand washing through signage.
- Double the normal number of portable toilets, handwashing, and hand sanitizer stations (call Mesa County Public Health for help calculating the necessary numbers).
- High-touch areas must be sanitized hourly.
- Shared equipment must be disinfected after each use (e.g., radios, sales transaction devices, computers).

### **Symptom monitoring:**

- Implement a health monitoring system to ensure employees, volunteers, and participants remove themselves if they have **a cough or shortness of breath/difficulty breathing**, OR any two of the following fever (there should be a thermometer on hand), chills, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, a recent loss of taste or smell.
- Promote COVID-19 testing among your employees, volunteers, and participants so they get scheduled for sampling should they develop symptoms after the event.
  - People can contact their health care provider or call 970-683-2300 to schedule an appointment.

### **Event Specifics:**

- Limit the number of people within the venue to no more than 50% of normal capacity, with mechanisms in place to prevent overcrowding and ensuring adequate social distancing.
- Pre-sale tickets or reservations only. The event must not allow first-come, first-served entrance or day-of-the-event ticket sales.
- Post signs at entrances encouraging visitors to wear cloth face coverings, and to exclude themselves if they are experiencing symptoms.
- Performers must be a min. of 25 feet distance from the audience. Dancing is prohibited.
- Use tape, paint, or flags to help participants maintain distancing while on the event grounds.
- To facilitate groups of 5 or more:
  - Create sections within the event grounds by creating 10x10 squares, separated by at least ten feet between squares, **OR**
  - Place flags in the ground at least 20 feet apart to mark the group center.
- To facilitate groups of less than 5 (including singles and couples):
  - Create sections within the event grounds by creating 6x6 squares, separated by at least 6 feet between squares, **OR**
  - Place flags in the ground at least 12 feet apart to mark the group center.
- Limit parties to 10 individuals from the same household and/or those in similar close relationships.
- Use signs and markings to promote social distancing anywhere a line may form.
- Increase the number of entrances and exits to avoid overcrowding.
- Offer twice the normal number of food and retail vendors in order to spread people out.
- For vendor-access areas, follow the guidance for EVENTS WITH HIGH PARTICIPANT MOVEMENT (below).

### **OUTDOOR EVENTS WITH HIGH PARTICIPANT MOVEMENT**

This applies to any event or event area in which participants will be constantly moving.

### **Event Attendees/Registration:**

- The event must be limited to Western Colorado residents only; specifically, residents of the following counties: Mesa, Montrose, Delta, Garfield, Pitkin, Rio Blanco, Gunnison, Ouray, and Eagle.
- Pre-registration is required for all events. There must be a name, phone number, and county of residence for every individual registered to attend the event.
- A list of participants must be sent to [healthinfo@mesacounty.us](mailto:healthinfo@mesacounty.us) prior to the start of the event.

### **Face Coverings:**

- Employees, contracted workers, and volunteers whose duties include close contact with members of the public must wear a non-medical cloth face covering over the nose and mouth.
- Participants must wear non-medical cloth face coverings when physical distancing cannot be maintained within the facility, such as upon entrance to the event and at certain times while moving about the facility.

### **Cleaning and Hygiene:**

- Encourage frequent hand washing through signage.
- Double the normal number of portable toilets, handwashing, and hand sanitizer stations (call Mesa County Public Health for help calculating the necessary numbers).
- High-touch areas must be sanitized hourly.
- Shared equipment must be disinfected after each use (e.g., radios, sales transaction devices, computers).

### **Symptom monitoring:**

- Implement a health monitoring system to ensure employees, volunteers, and participants remove themselves if they have **a cough or shortness of breath/difficulty breathing**, OR any two of the following fever (there should be a thermometer on hand), chills, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, a recent loss of taste or smell.
- Promote COVID-19 testing among your employees, volunteers, and participants so they get scheduled for sampling should they develop symptoms after the event.
  - People can contact their health care provider or call 970-683-2300 to schedule an appointment.

### **Event Specifics:**

- Design and manage the venue layout to promote social distancing at all times.
  - Space between booths should be 6 feet.
  - Create a single line of booths instead of double rows. If this is not possible, create at least a 16 feet thoroughfare between booths, allowing for a single file, directional flow of traffic.
  - Use signs and other markings to promote social distancing anywhere a line may form.
  - Use signs, ropes, cones, paint, and/or tape to define entrances, exits, and one-way flow of traffic.
  - Use a reservation system or pre-sell tickets and designate times for people to come to the event, to eliminate large crowds at entrances.
  - Have staff monitor customer entrance and exit at all times to ensure capacity limits are not exceeded.
  - Place vendor layout and information at the entrance or in another easily accessible and visible location.
- If there is live entertainment, performers must be a min. of 25 feet distance from the audience. Dancing is prohibited.

- Post signs at entrances encouraging participants to wear cloth face coverings, and asking them to exclude themselves if they are experiencing symptoms.
- Do not provide activities that encourage people to overcrowd or limit traffic-flow such as demonstrations, children's activities, etc.