



PUBLIC HEALTH ORDER MCPH2020-02

SAFER AT HOME MESA COUNTY

APRIL 30, 2020

PURPOSE

This Public Health Order is being issued to continue to limit the health impacts of COVID-19. This Order implements measures to allow limited reopening of certain industries and businesses in Mesa County while maintaining sustainable levels of social distancing. This Order continues social distancing requirements for all residents and Stay-at-Home requirements for vulnerable populations pursuant Executive Order D 2020 017. This Order is effective within the entirety of Mesa County, including all cities and towns within the County.

BACKGROUND

The Governor of Colorado issued several Executive Orders to address the current COVID-19 pandemic since March 11, 2020, including an Executive Order declaring a disaster emergency due to the presence of Coronavirus Disease 2019 in Colorado.

On March 25, 2020, the Governor of Colorado issued Executive Order D 2020 017, which ordered Coloradans to Stay at Home due to the presence of COVID-19 in the state. This order was issued in response to the existence of hundreds of confirmed and presumptive cases of Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) and related deaths across the State of Colorado. Further, there is substantial evidence of community spread of COVID-19 throughout the State.

On March 25, 2020, the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment issued Public Health Order 20-24 based on the Governor's Executive Order D 2020 017. On April 1st, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment updated Public Health Order 20-24 adding clarification to the essential services and social distancing definitions of the Stay-at-Home requirements.

On April 27, 2020 the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment issued a Safer at Home Public Health Order 20-28 based on the Governor's Executive Order D 2020 044 allowing many Coloradans to return to work while maintaining a sustainable level of social distancing.

On April 29, 2020 the Colorado Department of Public Health approved a Mesa County variance to portions of Executive Order D 2020 044 and Public Health Order 20-28 (See Attachment E). Mesa County demonstrated proof of two conditions, very low case counts of COVID 19 and 14 consecutive days of decline of infection of COVID-19 in the county. The Safer-at-Home Mesa County plan is approved by Mesa County Board of Public Health, Mesa County Board of County Commissioners, and is fully supported by all four hospitals.

LEGAL AUTHORITY

This Order is adopted pursuant to the legal authority set forth in sections 25-1-506 and 25-1-508, 25-1-509, Colorado Revised Statutes as well as all other applicable laws, rules, regulations, orders and declarations. Under this authority, the Mesa County Public Health Director has the duty to investigate and control the causes of the epidemic or communicable diseases and conditions affecting public health; to establish, maintain, and enforce isolation and quarantine; to exercise physical control over the property and over the persons of the people within the territorial limits of Mesa County; and to prohibit the gatherings of people to protect the public health; all as the Public Health Director may find necessary for the protection of the public health. Immediate issuance of this Order is deemed reasonable and necessary under the existing circumstances and necessary for the preservation of the public health, safety and welfare.

PUBLIC HEALTH ORDER MCPH2020-02 IS EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY

This Order is complementary to CDPHE Public Health Order 20-28 and, therefore, should not be relied upon solely. An easy-to-follow listing of the details for both the Colorado and Mesa County “Safer at Home” orders can be found at health.mesacounty.us.

GENERAL GUIDANCE

Best Practices for Mesa County Residents:

- Maintain physical distancing (6 feet)
- Adults 65 years and older and high-risk populations shall limit public interactions and stay at home as much as possible
- Use cloth face coverings for interactions where physical distancing is not possible or when entering public places
- Stay home and not go to work or out in the public if experiencing symptoms
- Wash hands frequently with soap and water. If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol
- Clean and disinfect all non-porous, high-touch surfaces frequently

Guidance and Requirements for Mesa County Businesses:

- Perform frequent environmental cleaning and disinfection (concentrate on high touch surfaces like tables, door knobs, light switches, countertops, handles, desks, phones, keyboards, toilets, faucets, sinks, etc.)
 - [Healthcare facilities](#)
 - [Postmortem care facilities](#)
 - [Laboratories](#)
 - [Other, non-healthcare facilities](#)
- Arrange spaces so that everyone can maintain at least six feet distance from each other
- Make reasonable work accommodations for vulnerable populations who are still under the Stay at Home advisement.
- Monitor employees and volunteers for one of the following symptoms:
 - Cough

- shortness of breath/difficulty breathing

or at least two of the following symptoms:

- Fever
- Chills
- Repeated shaking with chills
- Muscle pain
- Headache
- Sore throat
- New loss of taste or smell

Symptomatic employees and volunteers must be excluded from the workplace

- Employees and contracted workers whose duties include close contact with members of the public shall wear a non-medical cloth face covering over the nose and mouth
- All other employees are encouraged to wear a non-medical cloth face covering over the nose and mouth while working, except where doing so would compromise the individual's health
- In some instances, face masks are required for the public to enter a facility. All businesses have the option to require anyone entering their facility to wear a cloth face covering if they so choose.
- Implement or maintain return to work policies
 - [Healthcare facilities](#)
 - [Critical infrastructure workers after exposure](#)
- The following business shall remain closed:
 - Bars, taverns, brewpubs, breweries, microbreweries, distillery pubs, wineries, wine tasting rooms (except for retail), special permit licensees, clubs, and other places offering alcoholic beverages for on-site consumption except restaurants
 - Cigar bars
- Restaurants and fitness facilities are allowed to partially open as outlined in the attached guidelines
- Places of worship are allowed to increase the number of people in their facilities, if they so choose, as outlined in the attached documents
- Mesa County does not differentiate between critical and non-critical businesses. Employers are allowed to open their business under the attached guidelines but are encouraged to do so at their own pace
- Recommendations for specific industries are included in the following attachments:
 - Attachment A: Restaurants
 - Attachment B: Fitness facilities
 - Attachment C: Places of worship
 - Attachment D: Recreation

Group gatherings

- Group gatherings shall contain no more than 10 people
- Participants shall maintain at least six feet distance from each other

- No festivals or other organized large gatherings will be allowed until at least July 1st, at which time the situation will be evaluated to determine when and if festivals and other types of large gatherings can resume
- Large venues shall remain **closed** (movie theaters, bowling alleys, nightclubs, concert facilities, sporting event facilities, etc.)
- Private events that involve more than 10 people shall not be allowed at this time

DURATION

Mesa County Public Health Order 2020-02, is effective as of 12:45 p.m. April 30, 2020. This order will be amended to include details for phase 2 and 3 when appropriate. This Order shall expire six (6) weeks from April 30, 2020, unless extended further.

Each of the Safer at Home phases assumes a two week period. The decision to move into the next phase, stay at the current phase, or go back to Stay at Home will be made by Mesa County Public Health based on the rate of positive COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations in Mesa County.

Effective date: April 30, 2020

BY ORDER OF

Jeffrey G. Kuhr, PhD
Director of Public Health
Mesa County, Colorado

Approved by the Mesa County Public Board of Health on April 30, 2020 at 12:45 P.M. MDT

Attachment A: Restaurants

Restaurants are encouraged to continue to do business through take-out, delivery, and curbside pickup. If restaurants so choose, they can provide limited dine-in service. We understand there may be concerns about staff safety, and about whether certain facilities are conducive to successful implementation of social distancing best practices. Therefore, this partial opening opportunity is completely voluntary. Restaurants that choose to open their dining spaces may do so under the following guidelines. Please take the necessary time to make sure each of these items is adequately addressed before opening to the public:

- Limit the number of customers in your dining space to 30% of your fire/building code capacity
- Do not allow customers to wait in the lobby area or in lines outside the door for a table
 - Implement a reservation system
 - Notify customers via text or phone call when their table is ready
- Post signs at entrances regarding face coverings, and post signs throughout the facility as needed to remind the customers of social distancing and proper hygiene guidelines
- Customers are required to wear cloth face coverings in order to enter the business, and to keep their face coverings in place until they've reached their table
- Make reasonable accommodations for vulnerable individuals who are still under the Stay at Home advisement. (e.g. seating assistance, special hours)
- Ask customers if they are experiencing any symptoms prior to seating them in the dining area. If they are, do not allow them to enter
- Group parties shall be limited to six members of a single household
- Bars shall remain **closed**, including those that are part of restaurants
- Implement one-way entry/exit, and directional walkways as much as possible
- In-room dining shall follow strict physical distancing practices (6 feet)
- Spread people/tables out so there is at least six feet distance between individuals
- Self-serving stations shall remain **closed** (drinking stations, bulk dry, etc.)
- Don't allow public sharing of utensils or condiment containers
- Buffets shall have an employee serving the food, no self-serving allowed
- Perform frequent environmental cleaning and disinfection of bathrooms and high-touch surfaces
- Monitor employees for one of the following symptoms:
 - Cough
 - shortness of breath/difficulty breathing

or at least two of the following symptoms:

- Fever
- Chills
- Repeated shaking with chills
- Muscle pain
- Headache
- Sore throat
- New loss of taste or smell

Symptomatic employees must be excluded from the workplace

- Employees and contracted workers whose duties include close contact with members of the public shall wear a non-medical cloth face covering over the nose and mouth
- All other employees are encouraged to wear a non-medical cloth face covering over the nose and mouth while working, except where doing so would compromise the individual's health
- Implement or maintain physical barriers for high-contact settings (e.g. cashiers)
- Implement touchless payment methods when possible
- Stagger shifts if feasible to decrease employee numbers at the business

Attachment B: Fitness Facilities

Gyms, health clubs, and other similar fitness facilities can open their facilities for limited use. We understand there may be concerns about staff safety, and about whether certain facilities are conducive to successful implementation of social distancing best practices. Therefore, this partial opening opportunity is completely voluntary. Fitness facilities that choose to open for use may do so under the following guidelines. Please take the necessary time to make sure each of these items is adequately addressed before opening your doors:

- Limit the number of customers to 30% of your fire/building code capacity
- Do not allow customers to wait in the lobby area or in lines outside the door
- Customers shall wear a face covering both when entering the facility and while in the facility
- Post signs at entrances and throughout the facility as needed to remind customers of face coverings, social distancing, and proper hygiene guidelines
- Make reasonable accommodations for vulnerable individuals who are still under the Stay at Home advisement. (e.g. assistance with equipment cleaning, special hours)
- Ask customers to exclude themselves from using the facility if they are experiencing symptoms of any illness
- Implement one-way entry/exit, and directional walkways as much as possible
- Spread people out so there is at least 10 feet distance between individuals throughout
- Except for members of a single household, sharing equipment is prohibited
- Require customers to disinfect equipment after every use or require employees to disinfect shared equipment between customer uses
- Perform frequent environmental cleaning and disinfection of bathrooms and high-touch surfaces
- Monitor employees for one of the following symptoms:
 - Cough
 - shortness of breath/difficulty breathing
 or at least two of the following symptoms:
 - Fever
 - Chills
 - Repeated shaking with chills
 - Muscle pain
 - Headache
 - Sore throat

- New loss of taste or smell

Symptomatic employees must be excluded from the workplace

- Employees and contracted workers whose duties include close contact with members of the public shall wear a non-medical cloth face covering over the nose and mouth
- All other employees are encouraged to wear a non-medical cloth face covering over the nose and mouth while working, except where doing so would compromise the individual's health
- One-on-one personal training is allowed while strictly adhering to social distancing guidelines
- Group classes are **not allowed**
- Sport courts shall remain **closed**
- Locker rooms shall remain **closed**
- Saunas, pools (indoor and outdoor) and shared spaces shall remain **closed**
- Food/drink bars shall remain **closed**
- On-site childcare facilities shall remain **closed**

Attachment C: Places of Worship

Places of worship are encouraged to continue online or drive-up services as much as possible. For activities within a facility, places of worship are allowed to increase the number of participants, if they so choose, as outlined in the following guidelines:

- Limit the number of guests to no more than 50, provided there's at least six feet distance between individuals or between groups, which shall consist only of members of a single household
- Do not allow guests to wait in the lobby area or in lines outside the door
- Post signs at entrances and throughout the facility as needed to encourage face coverings and to remind guests of social distancing and proper hygiene guidelines
- Make reasonable accommodations for vulnerable individuals who are still under the Stay at Home advisement. (e.g. online viewing, visits to their home). Discourage any such individual from traveling to and/or entering the facility
- Do not allow anyone to attend any event/activity in person if they are experiencing symptoms of any illness
- Implement one-way entry/exit, and directional walkways as much as possible
- Place markings on floors to maintain at least six feet distance where lines might form
- Spread people out so there is at least six feet distance between individuals or between groups, which shall consist only of members of a single household
- Implement touchless offering and communion options as much as possible
- Perform frequent environmental cleaning and disinfection of bathrooms and high-touch surfaces
- Monitor employees and volunteers for one of the following symptoms:
 - Cough
 - shortness of breath/difficulty breathingor at least two of the following symptoms:
 - Fever
 - Chills
 - Repeated shaking with chills
 - Muscle pain
 - Headache
 - Sore throat
 - New loss of taste or smell

Symptomatic employees and volunteers must be excluded from the premises

- Employees and contracted workers whose duties include close contact with members of the public shall wear a non-medical cloth face covering over the nose and mouth
- All employees and volunteers shall wear a non-medical cloth face covering over the nose and mouth while on premises, except where doing so would compromise the individual's health

Attachment D: Recreation

Local recreation facilities can be open to the public under the following guidelines. Mesa County or any municipality can enact stricter orders as they see fit.

- Group gatherings shall contain no more than 10 people
- Parks facilities conducive to gathering including shelters, picnic areas, and playgrounds shall remain **closed**
- Swim beaches shall remain **closed**
- League or pick-up sports are **prohibited** at this time
- Park facilities that enable social distancing such as trails, green space, tennis courts, and golf courses will remain open
- Golfers shall maintain physical distance of 6 feet at all times
- Motorized golf carts shall contain no more than one golfer; members of a single household can ride together in the same cart
- Golfers should avoid sharing clubs and golf balls
- Maintain physical distancing in outdoor settings (6 feet while hiking, 15 feet while running or biking)
- Outdoor recreation facilities can remain open to the public whenever adequate controls can be implemented to ensure physical distancing (six feet)
- Monitor employees and volunteers for one of the following symptoms:
 - Cough
 - shortness of breath/difficulty breathingor at least two of the following symptoms:
 - Fever
 - Chills
 - Repeated shaking with chills
 - Muscle pain
 - Headache
 - Sore throat
 - New loss of taste or smell

Symptomatic employees and volunteers must be excluded from the premises

- Employees and contracted workers whose duties include close contact with members of the public shall wear a non-medical cloth face covering over the nose and mouth
- All other employees are encouraged to wear a non-medical cloth face covering over the nose and mouth while working, except where doing so would compromise the individual's health
- Perform frequent cleaning and disinfection of bathrooms and high-touch surfaces
- Only essential travel allowed; avoid traveling outside of your county or local community for recreation



COLORADO
Department of Public
Health & Environment

Sent via email to mcbocc@mesacounty.us

April 28, 2020

Scott McInnis, Chair
Rose Pugliese, Commissioner
John Justman, Commissioner
Mesa County Board of County Commissioners
P.O. Box 20,000
544 Rood Avenue
Grand Junction, CO 81502-5010

RE: Mesa County Variance Request from portions of **Executive Order D 20 044** and **Public Health Order 20-28**

Dear Commissioners:

Thank you for your April 27, 2020 submission to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) of a variance request to portions of **Executive Order D 20 044 Safer at Home** and **Public Health Order 20-28 Safer at Home**. I have had an opportunity to review your request and consider the information provided, and determine that the request is approved, with some amendments, as explained further below.

You asked for a variance related to three specific functions, including Restaurants (CDPHE Order II.A.), Places of Worship (CDPHE Order II.B. and Appendix F.5), and Gyms (CDPHE Order II.A.4.). Your COVID-19 Suppression Plan addresses particular requirements that you propose as an alternative to the Safer at Home model for each of these areas. The data and information included in your request demonstrates a strong disease prevention and response system in Mesa County, with only 39 total COVID-19 positive cases and ongoing testing which will expand with the reopening of hospitals and ambulatory surgical centers to voluntary and elective services and procedures pursuant to **Executive Order D 2020 045** and **Public Health Order 20-29**. Additionally, you have shared that your hospital and other healthcare systems are not stressed, and that you have a well-functioning public health epidemiology team as well as specific teams dedicated to particular settings, such as correctional facilities, nursing homes, and child care facilities. These are all positive indicators of a highly capable response plan to continue to address any COVID-19 disease outbreaks that may occur in Mesa County.

Regarding surveillance, you should track multiple surveillance measures including laboratory testing percent positivity as you are suggesting, and track changes in percent positivity on at least a weekly basis. Implement surveillance thresholds based on percent positivity data that

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would trigger Mesa County to revert to state Safer at Home or more conservative social distancing standards. For example, consider a threshold of two weeks of increasing percent positivity OR a weekly percent positivity value of more than 10%. The current state target for testing for COVID-19 is 10,000 tests per day. Consider adopting a similar, population adjusted target for Mesa County.

Regarding the COVID-19 Suppression Plan for reopening restaurants, I agree that reopening at a thirty percent (30%) of fire code capacity is a reasonable proposal, but have a few modifications to your list of additional requirements. First, customers must wear face coverings when entering the restaurant until seated at their tables. Restaurants cannot allow customers to wait in a lobby area for a table, rather customers should make reservations online or by phone, and every effort should be made to notify customers via text or phone call when their table is ready so no waiting in a lobby is necessary. Customers must be asked prior to entering a restaurant whether they have any symptoms of COVID-19, and any customers reporting symptoms must be excluded. Restaurant employees who are symptomatic must be excluded from the workplace and required to isolate for 7-10 days, per CDC guidance. As noted in your suppression plan, this approval is only for restaurants, bars are not authorized to open.

Places of worship may have up to fifty (50) participants. Participants must be asked whether they have COVID-19 symptoms at the door and excluded from the place of worship if symptomatic. Symptomatic employees must be excluded from the place of worship and required to remain in isolation for 7-10 days, per CDC guidance. Participants should be encouraged to wear a face covering both when entering and while present in the house of worship.

Finally, for fitness centers operating at thirty percent (30%) of fire code capacity, ill employees must be excluded from the center and required to remain in isolation for 7-10 days. Customers must be asked whether they have COVID-19 symptoms at the door and excluded from the fitness center if symptomatic. Customers should be encouraged to wear a face covering both when entering the facility and while in the facility, unless a face covering inhibits the participants ability to participate in the fitness activity. Given the many unknowns regarding how the SARS CoV-2 virus responsible for COVID-19 is spread, use of equipment in the fitness center must be limited to no closer than every other machine so that participants are not exercising right next to each other and smaller exercise rooms with poor ventilation should be discouraged from use. Finally, employees must clean and disinfect shared equipment between customer uses.

This variance approval is granted based on the facts and circumstances today as you have described them in your request; however, should circumstances change such that, for example, surges in COVID-19 transmission occurs, cases exceed the capacity for Mesa County to fully implement all effective disease control strategies as described in your request, or if resources or COVID-19 prevalence statewide in our opinion requires a different approach, CDPHE reserves the right to modify or rescind this variance approval.

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I appreciate your thoughtful approach to these challenging issues, and wish you all the best in your continuing efforts to ensure that Mesa County residents are safe and healthy as we deal with this global pandemic. Mesa County is a valued partner, and we are available to answer any questions and work with you on these matters. Please give me a call if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jill Hunsaker Ryan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "R".

Jill Hunsaker Ryan, MPH
Executive Director