



PUBLIC HEALTH ORDER MCPH2020-05

SAFER AT HOME_LEVEL 1

October 26, 2020

PURPOSE

This Public Health Order is being issued to continue to limit the health impacts of COVID-19. This Order implements measures to continue limited reopening of industries and businesses in Mesa County while maintaining sustainable levels of social distancing. This Order continues social distancing requirements for all residents. 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 9th, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment updated Public Health Order 20-24, clarifying the essential services and social distancing definitions of the Stay-at-Home requirements.

On June 30, 2020, the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment issued an updated version of the 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 May 22, 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 A). 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 - Phase 2 plan was approved by the Mesa County Board of Public Health, Mesa County Board of County Commissioners, and fully supported by all four hospitals.

On September 8, 2020, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment certified Mesa County to move to the Protect our Neighbor phase indicating low disease transmission level locally, robust public health capacity for testing, case investigation, contact tracing and outbreak response, and hospital ability to handle a surge in demand should one occur.

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 an 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.

I. GENERAL GUIDANCE FOR MESA COUNTY RESIDENTS

- Maintain at least 6 feet of social distance.
- Adults 65 years and older and high-risk populations should limit public interactions and stay at home as much as possible.
- Use cloth face coverings over the nose and mouth for interactions where physical distancing is not possible or when entering and moving throughout indoor public places.
- Stay home 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.
- Frequently clean and disinfect all non-porous, high-touch surfaces.
- Avoid potlucks and sharing of food and/or tools and utensils. All tools, utensils, or other shared equipment used before, during, or after the gathering should be thoroughly cleaned and sanitized.
- Gathering with people from different households and/or with people from outside the community poses a greater risk.
- Avoid unnecessary physical contact (including hugs, handshakes, or fist bumps).
- Anyone with coronavirus symptoms, or who interact regularly with the public, or who were recently in a crowd where social distancing was not possible should get tested.
- Follow [isolation](#) and [quarantine](#) guidelines after getting tested or, if required, to stay home due to illness.

II. REQUIREMENTS FOR RETAIL ESTABLISHMENTS, RESTAURANTS, BARS, OFFICES, PERSONAL SERVICE ESTABLISHMENTS, PLACES OF WORSHIP, GYMS/FITNESS FACILITIES, ENTERTAINMENT ESTABLISHMENTS, ORGANIZED SPORTS/RECREATION EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES, INDOOR SPECIAL EVENTS, AND SPONSORED/HOSTED GATHERINGS

Public and private gatherings are limited to no more than 10 individuals from no more than 2 households when not otherwise limited by a specific sector or activity outlined below.

Guidance by Industry:

- **Amusement parks and arcades** must be closed.
- **Bars** that don't have a retail food license must be closed.
 - Bars that meet the requirements of Mesa County's Variance Protection Program can remain open and must:
 - Ensure the allowed number of guests are safely distanced by spacing tabletops at least 9 feet apart in all directions.
 - Limit the number of guests to the seats available. Provide a seat for each and every guest.
 - Eliminate standing room space.
 - Prohibit dancing. Dance floors can be used as part of the overall seating space while staying at 50% of normal capacity.
 - Outdoor spaces such as patios or other expanded areas may be included for restaurants and on-premises retail liquor establishments (as granted by any municipality). Limit use to 50% of capacity.
 - To prevent the sharing of equipment or utensils, self-service options are not allowed.
 - Last call for alcohol sales in restaurants and in on-premises retail liquor establishments can be no later than midnight. Alcohol consumption must end at 12:30 AM.
- **Restaurants** are limited to 50% of the facility's normal capacity, not to exceed 175 people per room.
 - Restaurants that meet the requirements of Mesa County's Variance Protection Program can allow up to 300 people per room as long as they don't exceed 50% of normal capacity.
 - Restaurants that also operate as a bar and/or nightclub must:
 - Ensure the allowed number of guests are safely distanced by spacing tabletops at least 9 feet apart in all directions.
 - Limit the number of guests to the seats available, provide a seat for each and every guest.
 - Eliminate standing room space.
 - Prohibit dancing. Dance floors can be used as part of the overall seating space while staying at 50% of normal capacity.
 - Outdoor spaces such as patios or other expanded areas may be included for restaurants and on-premises retail liquor establishments (as granted by any municipality). Limit use to 50% of capacity.
 - To prevent the sharing of equipment or utensils, self-service options are not allowed.
 - Last call for alcohol sales in restaurants and in on-premises retail liquor establishments can be no later than midnight. Alcohol consumption must end at 12:30 AM.
- **Retail sales establishments, offices, and places of worship** are limited to 50% of the facility's normal capacity, not to exceed 175 people per room.

- Any of these establishments that meet the requirements of Mesa County's Variance Protection Program can allow up to 300 people per room as long as they don't exceed 50% of normal capacity.
- Businesses that conduct their work in office settings are encouraged to continue to use telework/teleconferencing as much as possible.
- Retailers are encouraged to continue drive-through, curbside pick-up, or delivery services.
- **Personal Services** are limited to 50% of the facility's normal capacity, not to exceed 50 people per room.
 - Any of these establishments that meet the requirements of Mesa County's Variance Protection Program can allow up to 300 people per room as long as they don't exceed 50% of normal capacity.
- **Recreation, including gyms, bowling alleys, recreation centers, indoor pools, and outdoor recreation facilities**, are limited to 25% of normal capacity, not to exceed 75 people per room indoors or 75 people per activity or area outdoors.
 - Face coverings are required during group exercise classes and while bowling except while seated and 6 feet from others. Face coverings are not required while exercising alone.
 - Any of these establishments that meet the requirements of Mesa County's Variance Protection Program can allow up to 50% of normal capacity or 300 people per room, whichever is less.
- **P-12 schools and higher education** can continue in-person learning, hybrid, or remote as appropriate. In-person instruction at **postsecondary institutions** should not exceed 175 people per room.
- **Indoor events** are limited to 50% of the facility's normal capacity, not to exceed 175 people per room.
- **Outdoor events** are limited to 250 people per designated activity or area.
- **Organized recreational youth or adult league sports** are limited to 50 players, not including coaching staff or referees and umpires.

Face Coverings (adopted from Executive Order D 2020 219)

Public Indoor Space means any enclosed indoor area that is publicly or privately owned, managed, or operated to which individuals have access by right or by invitation, expressed or implied, and that is accessible to the public, serves as a place of employment, or is an entity providing services. Public Indoor Space does not mean a person's residence, including a room in a motel or hotel or a residential room for students at an educational facility.

- Individuals 11 years and older must wear a face covering over the nose and mouth when entering or moving within any Public Indoor Space or while using or waiting to use the services of any taxi, bus, light rail, train, car service, ride-sharing or similar service, or Mass Transportation Operations.
- Children ages 2 and under should NOT wear a face covering.
- The following individuals are exempt from the requirements of this Executive Order:
 - Individuals ten (10) years old and younger; or
 - Individuals who cannot medically tolerate a face covering.

Individuals performing the following activities are exempt from the requirements of this Executive Order while the activity is being performed:

- Individuals who are hearing impaired or otherwise disabled or who are communicating with someone who is hearing impaired or otherwise disabled and where the ability to see the mouth is essential to communication;
- Individuals who are seated at a food service establishment;
- Individuals who are exercising alone or with others from the individual's household and a face covering would interfere with the activity;
- Individuals who are receiving a personal service where the temporary removal of the face covering is necessary to perform the service;
- Individuals who enter a business or receive services and are asked to temporarily remove a face covering for identification purposes;
- Individuals who are actively engaged in a public safety role such as law enforcement, firefighters, or emergency medical personnel;
- Individuals who are officiating at a life rite or religious service; or
- Individuals who are giving a speech for broadcast or an audience.

Signage

- Post signs at entrances requiring visitors to wear cloth face coverings to enter/exit and to exclude themselves if they are experiencing symptoms of any illness.
- Post signs in key places providing directions to hand washing/sanitizing locations.

Cleaning and Hygiene

- Provide sufficient handwashing facilities and hand sanitizer stations (There should be one handwashing facility or hand sanitizer station for every 25 people in a facility at any given time).
- High-touch surfaces and shared equipment should be cleaned often.

Symptoms and Illness

- Everyone should monitor themselves for illness and stay home if experiencing any of the following: dry cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, fever, or a recent loss of taste or smell.
- Anyone with COVID-like symptoms is encouraged to get tested by their healthcare provider or at a free [community testing site](#).

III. SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- To prevent groups or lines of individuals from forming, stagger visitors using reservation or appointment systems. Manage unexpected groups and/or lines by marking floors or using barrier tape to help people maintain six feet of distance between each other.
- Use physical barriers like plexiglass in close-contact settings such as cashier stations, serving stations, or dining booths (barriers separating booths must be at least 66 inches tall).
- Utilize touchless payment methods, such as smartphone apps, when possible.
- Ensure that reasonable accommodations can be made for people 65 years and older and those with underlying medical conditions (e.g. seating assistance, special hours, online orders).

- Organized seating must not allow for more than 10 people from a single party. Groups must be at least 6 feet apart from each other. Two separate parties are not allowed to be seated together.
- To ensure there is at least six feet of distance between individuals and/or groups, tabletops must be spaced at least 9 feet apart in all directions.
- Performers at indoor and outdoor venues must remain at least 25 feet from attendees. Instrumental performances in which there is no forced exhalation must be a minimum of 6 feet from patrons, but 25 feet is preferred.
- Visitation for skilled nursing facilities, assisted living residences, and intermediate care facilities must be in accordance with [Public Health Order 20-20](#).

IV. RECREATION

- Bounce houses and ball pits are **prohibited** in any public or commercial venue.
- Organized recreational youth or adult league sports may resume activities with no more than 50 players, excluding coaching staff and referees or umpires.
- Outdoor Guided Activities may be conducted at 50% capacity not to exceed 25 people.
- Children's Day Camps, Residential Camps, Youth Sports Day Camps, and Exempt Single Skill-Building Youth Camps may be conducted with no more than 25 participants indoors and 50 participants outdoors.
- To the extent possible, spectators at recreation and sports activities are discouraged. If spectators are present, separate individuals and parties of 10 people or less by at least six feet.
- Organized youth and adult recreational sports teams should practice in small groups of the same players as much as possible. Consider scheduling competitions 2 weeks apart in case a team needs to quarantine because of potential COVID exposure.
- Golf carts, go-karts, paddle boards, etc. must contain no more than one person, unless both riders are members of the same party.
- Maintain physical distances in outdoor settings (6 feet while hiking, 15 feet while running or biking).
- Avoid traveling outside of your county or local community.

V. EVENTS

- Indoor Events may be conducted at 50% of the posted occupancy limit, not to exceed 175 people per room.
- Outdoor Events may occur with up to 250 people per designated activity or area.

Mesa County Public Health developed specific guidance for three types of events: community races, events with limited participant movement, and events with high participant movement. Event organizers or coordinators must review the guidance, develop a plan, and submit it to Mesa County Public Health at least two weeks prior to the day of the event. Event organizers must submit the plan to healthinfo@mesacounty.us.

DURATION

Mesa County Public Health Order 2020-05 can be replaced or supplemented by other orders at any time.

The decision to continue to lift restrictions, stay with the current plan, or move back to Protect our Neighbors will be made by the Mesa County Board of Public Health based on the rate of positive COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations in Mesa County.

BY ORDER OF

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

Approved by the Mesa County Public Board of Public Health on October 24, 2020, at 10:10 a.m.
MDT