



PUBLIC HEALTH ORDER MCPH2020-07

SAFER AT HOME: Severe Risk, Red Level November 19, 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 the 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 May 22, 2020, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment approved a Mesa County variance to portions of Executive Order D 2020 044 and Public Health Order 20-28. 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 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 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.

On October 23, 2020, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment moved Mesa County to Safer at Home Level Blue due to increased COVID-19 transmission. From October 26 to November 5, 2020, case counts grew from 1,332 to 1,978 positive cases. The large increase in case counts, positivity rates, and hospitalizations prompted the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment to move Mesa County to Safer at Home Level Orange on November 6, 2020.

On November 17, 2020, the continued increase in case counts, positivity rates, and hospitalizations prompted the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment to move Mesa County to Safer at Home Level Red effective November 20, 2020.

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.
- All individuals 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.
- Individuals are encouraged to limit travel to only what is necessary.
- Avoid unnecessary physical contact (including hugs, handshakes, or fist bumps).
- Anyone with coronavirus symptoms, or who regularly interact 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, HIGHER EDUCATION, GYMS/FITNESS FACILITIES, ENTERTAINMENT ESTABLISHMENTS, ORGANIZED SPORTS/RECREATION EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES, INDOOR SPECIAL EVENTS, AND SPONSORED/HOSTED GATHERINGS

Guidance by Industry:

- **Amusement parks and arcades** must be closed.
- **Bars** that don't serve food must be closed, unless they meet the requirements of [Mesa County's Variance Protection Program](#).
- **Restaurants** are limited to take out, to go, delivery, or outdoor dining only with members of the same household, unless they meet the requirements of [Mesa County's Variance Protection Program](#).
 - For outdoor on-premise spaces:
 - 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.
 - Limit group parties to no more than 6 people; groups must consist of members of the same household.
 - Do not provide live music or any other live performances.
 - To prevent the sharing of equipment or utensils, self-service options are not allowed.
 - On-premise service must end by 8 PM. Takeout, to go, and delivery must end by 10:00 pm.
- **Critical and Non-critical retail sales establishments** are limited to 50% of the facility's normal capacity with increased curbside pick up, and delivery, unless they meet the requirements of [Mesa County's Variance Protection Program](#).
- **Offices** are limited to 10% capacity. Remote work is strongly encouraged, unless they meet the requirements of [Mesa County's Variance Protection Program](#).
- **Places of worship** are limited to 25% of the facility's normal capacity, not to exceed 50 people per room, unless they meet the requirements of [Mesa County's Variance Protection Program](#).
- **Higher Education facilities** are suggested to operate remotely and limit in-person learning to only when necessary, unless they meet the requirements of [Mesa County's Variance Protection Program](#).
- **Recreation, including gyms, bowling alleys, recreation centers, indoor pools, and outdoor recreation facilities**, are limited to 10% of normal capacity, not to exceed 10 people per room, unless they meet the requirements of [Mesa County's Variance Protection Program](#).
 - In recreation facilities and gyms, masks must be worn when entering or leaving the facility, while moving about the facility, and during group exercises. Masks may be removed when exercising alone.

- In bowling alleys, masks must be worn when entering or leaving the facility, while moving about the facility, and during group bowling, including leagues. Masks may be removed when bowling alone.
- **Organized recreational youth or adult league sports** are not authorized for indoor settings. Outdoor settings are limited to groups of 10, maintaining distancing requirements between non-household contacts, not including coaching staff or referees and umpires.

Face Coverings (adopted from Executive Order D 2020 237)

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 6 people from the same household. 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.
- 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.
- Outdoor Guided Activities may be conducted at 25% capacity not to exceed 10 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 10 participants outdoors only.
- Organized youth and adult recreational sports teams are not authorized for indoor settings. Outdoor recreational sports may be conducted not to exceed 10 people.
- 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 AND GATHERINGS

Indoor events and private gatherings are not allowed under any circumstances.

- Indoor events are defined as organized activities that have a specific date, time, and location. The event organizer rents or reserves space for the activity to take place; and the facility or establishment provides a specific area for the event and does not allow the general public to enter the reserved area.

Outdoor events are limited to 25% of the facility's normal capacity not to exceed 75 people in attendance. Groups must be limited to household members, maintaining 6ft distance between groups.

DURATION

Mesa County Public Health Order 2020-07 can be replaced or supplemented by other orders at any time.

The decision to stay with the current plan or to lift restrictions, 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 November 19, 2020, at 12:00 pm, MDT.