



## D 2021 137

### EXECUTIVE ORDER

#### **Declaring the State of Colorado High Risk for COVID-19 Exposure or Transmission**

Pursuant to the authority vested in the Governor of the State of Colorado and, in particular, pursuant to Article IV, Section 2 of the Colorado Constitution and the relevant portions of the Colorado Disaster Emergency Act, C.R.S. § 24-33.5-701, *et seq.*, I, Jared Polis, Governor of the State of Colorado, hereby issue this Executive Order declaring the entire State of Colorado high risk for exposure or transmission of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) for the purpose of COVID-19 booster shot eligibility. I urge all Coloradans who are 18 years of age and older to get a COVID-19 vaccine booster dose six months after receiving either the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine and two months after receiving the Johnson & Johnson Janssen vaccine. I urge all Coloradans who are eligible and have not yet received any vaccine to get one immediately.

#### **I. Background and Purpose**

On March 5, 2020, CDPHE's public health laboratory confirmed the first presumptive positive COVID-19 test result in Colorado. I verbally declared a disaster emergency on March 10, 2020, and on March 11, 2020, I issued the corresponding Executive Order D 2020 003, as amended and extended. On March 25, 2020, I requested that the President of the United States declare a Major Disaster for the State of Colorado, pursuant to the Stafford Act. The President approved that request on March 28, 2020. On July 8, 2021, I rescinded Executive Order D 2020 003, as amended and extended, and issued Executive Order D 2021 122, the Colorado COVID-19 Disaster Recovery Order, as amended and extended, which memorialized and continued the declaration of disaster, pursuant to C.R.S. § 24-33.5-704(4), from Executive Order D 2020 003, as amended and extended.

My administration, along with other State, local, and federal authorities, has taken a wide array of actions to mitigate the effects of the pandemic, prevent further spread, and protect against overwhelming our healthcare resources. Despite significant progress, there has been an increase in COVID-19 cases, largely due to the highly contagious Delta variant and the spread of the virus among the twenty-eight percent of Coloradans five years of age and older who have yet to get the highly effective, safe vaccine. The entire State of Colorado is in a significant wave of disease spread. With an estimated 1 in 67 Coloradans infected, it is likely that nearly all Coloradans are exposed to COVID-19 where they live or work.

As of November 10, 2021, there have been 774,997 Coloradans diagnosed with COVID-19; 44,303 have been hospitalized; and 8,814 Coloradans have died from COVID-19. There are 1,492 individuals currently hospitalized due to COVID-19, and only 623 hospital beds remain

unoccupied across the State. 95% of Colorado's intensive care beds are occupied and 94% of medical/surgical beds are occupied.

Booster doses of the COVID-19 vaccine have been authorized by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to be administered two months after getting the Johnson & Johnson Janssen vaccine and six months after completing the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna vaccination series, including for individuals 18 years of age and older who live or work in high risk settings. Because disease spread is so significant across Colorado, all Coloradans who are 18 years of age and older are at high risk and qualify for a booster shot. I urge all Coloradans who are 18 years of age and older to get a COVID-19 vaccine booster dose six months after receiving either the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine and two months after receiving the Johnson & Johnson Janssen vaccine. And given the severity of the current outbreak across the State, I urge all Coloradans who are eligible and have not yet received any vaccine to get one immediately.

This Executive Order declares the entire State of Colorado high risk for exposure or transmission of COVID-19 for the purpose of COVID-19 booster shot eligibility.

## **II. Directives**

- A. I declare the entire State of Colorado high risk for exposure or transmission of COVID-19 and therefore eligible for the safe and highly effective COVID-19 booster shot.

## **III. Duration**

This Executive Order shall expire thirty (30) days from November 10, 2021, unless extended further by Executive Order.



GIVEN under my hand and  
the Executive Seal of the  
State of Colorado, this tenth  
day of November 2021.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jared Polis". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jared Polis  
Governor