



COLORADO
Department of Public
Health & Environment

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEALTH ORDER 20-23 IMPLEMENTING SOCIAL DISTANCING MEASURES

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) is working to prevent the spread of novel coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19). At this time I find it necessary to implement emergency measures to limit mass gatherings to no more than (10) people.

FINDINGS

1. COVID-19 is a respiratory illness caused by a novel coronavirus, and like other respiratory illnesses, is transmitted through person-to-person contact or by contact with surfaces contaminated with the virus. Persons infected with COVID-19 may become symptomatic anywhere from two to fourteen days after exposure. Symptoms include fever, cough or shortness of breath or difficulty breathing. Individuals with serious chronic health conditions and older adults are most at risk for becoming very ill with this disease. As of March 18, 2020, there are 183 presumptive positive cases of COVID-19 in Colorado.

2. A significant number of Coloradans are at risk of serious health complications, including death, due to COVID-19. Although most individuals who contract COVID-19 do not become seriously ill, persons with mild symptoms and asymptomatic COVID-19 illness may place other vulnerable members of the public at significant risk. A large surge in the number of persons with serious infections can compromise the ability of the healthcare system to deliver necessary healthcare to the public. Colorado is experiencing a rapid increase in COVID-19 transmission that threatens the health of residents and risks overwhelming the healthcare system in the state of Colorado.



3. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has recommended community mitigation strategies such as social distancing measures in order to protect the public's health. One area of concern for possible transmission of disease is when large numbers of people gather. The CDC has issued guidance concerning the factors to consider when determining whether to hold an event or gathering, and the White House has recommended limiting mass gatherings to no more than (10) persons. The CDC defines a mass gathering as "a planned or spontaneous event with a large number of people in attendance that could strain the planning and response resources of the community hosting the event, such as a concert, festival, conference, or sporting event." [CDC Interim Guidance for Coronavirus Disease \(COVID-19\)](#) dated March 15, 2020.

4. On March 12, 2020, I issued Public Health Order 20-20, which restricted visitors at all Colorado skilled nursing facilities, assisted living residences, and intermediate care facilities.

5. On March 16, 2020, I issued Public Health Order 20-22, which closed bars, restaurants, theaters, gymnasiums and casinos through April 30, 2020.

6. Pursuant to Colo. Rev. Stat. § 25-1.5-101(1)(a) and §25-1.5-102(1)(a)(I), this Public Health Order limits gatherings of individuals to no more than (10) people to slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus. CDPHE has the duty to investigate and control the causes of epidemic or communicable diseases and conditions affecting public health, to close public places and forbid gatherings of people when necessary to protect the public health, and to establish, maintain and enforce isolation and quarantine, and, in pursuance thereof and for this purpose only, to exercise such physical control over property and the persons of the people within this state as the department may find necessary for the protection of public health.



ORDER

I. Effective at 12:01 AM on March 19, 2020, all mass gatherings shall be limited to no more than ten (10) people. Gatherings subject to this Order include, but are not limited to, community, civic, public, leisure, faith-based events, sporting events with spectators, concerts, conventions, fundraisers, parades, fairs, festivals, and any similar event or activity that brings together (10) or more persons in a single room or space at the same time in a venue such as an auditorium, stadium, arena, large conference room, meeting hall, private club, or any other confined indoor or outdoor space.

II. This Order shall not apply to the following:

- A. The Colorado State Legislature or the Colorado courts;
- B. Normal operations at airports, bus and train stations, health care facilities, grocery or retail stores, pharmacies, or other spaces where (10) or more persons may be in transit for essential goods and services;
- C. As authorized in Public Health Order 20-22, restaurants may continue to offer delivery and take out food services in accord with the requirements contained in that Order; and
- D. Office environments, government buildings where essential government services are offered, or factories where more than (10) people are present but social distancing measures of maintaining at least 6 feet between individuals is standard.

This Order takes effect at 12:01 AM on March 19, 2020 and remains in effect for (30) days, unless otherwise extended in writing by the Executive Director.

CDPHE is tasked with protecting the health and welfare of the citizens of Colorado by investigating and controlling the causes of epidemic and communicable disease. This



Order is necessary to control any potential transmission of disease to others. See sections 25-1.5-101(1)(a) and 25-1.5-102(1)(a)(I), C.R.S. Immediate issuance of this Order is necessary for the preservation of public health, safety, or welfare.

FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THIS ORDER IS SUBJECT TO THE PENALTIES CONTAINED IN SECTIONS 25-1-114, C.R.S, INCLUDING A FINE OF UP TO ONE THOUSAND (1,000) DOLLARS AND IMPRISONMENT IN THE COUNTY JAIL FOR UP TO ONE YEAR.

Jill Hunsaker Ryan, MPH
Executive Director

March 18, 2020
Date

