



April 22, 2020

John M. Douglas, Jr., M.D.
Executive Director
Tri-County Health Department
6162 S. Willow Drive, Suite 100
Greenwood Village, CO 80111

Dear Dr. Douglas:

On April 20, 2020 the Governor unveiled the outline of steps Colorado will take to reopen after the Stay At Home order expires. We are responding to the most recent information available for your consideration and have developed the attached plan based on our understanding of the principles of *Safer at Home*.

Thank you for recognizing that Douglas County is in a unique position as compared with other metro counties due to our lower disease rate parameters and proactive development of actionable measures. As a County with more favorable data we submit the following plan for your consideration and we seek your support of our plan.

With no sustained surge in the number of cases requiring hospitalization as a result of COVID-19, Douglas County believes as long as our communities continue to make responsible choices, we can, and should, start taking steps to reopen.

We trust and understand as well as respectfully request that Tri-County Health join us in implementing and actively pursuing and advancing the principles in the Douglas County Plan with our community partners and as part of the Tri-County phased approach to reopening. We appreciate the phased approach to mark when various social and economic restrictions can be loosened.

We look forward to continued partnership with our Tri-County Health Department on this solution which promotes economic recovery while assuring appropriate public health measures and progress.

Respectfully,

Abe Laydon
County Commissioner
District I

Roger Partridge, Chair
County Commissioner
District II

Lora Thomas, Vice Chair
County Commissioner
District III



**DOUGLAS COUNTY PLAN FOR MAXIMIZING PUBLIC HEALTH, WHILE MINIMIZING STRESSORS ON CITIZENS, A POTENTIAL MEDICAL SURGE, AND AN ECONOMIC COLLAPSE
APRIL 27, 2020 FIRST PHASE TO REOPENING**

PURPOSE

In order to minimize the internal and external stressors on citizens, limit the chances for a medical surge in excess of hospital capacity, and avoid an economic collapse, the Douglas County Plan crafts a balance between addressing the current significant emotional and financial impact on citizens and businesses while maintaining public health and infection control capabilities.

TIMELINE

1. Operational plan begins – April 27, 2020
2. Curbside retail begins – May 1, 2020
3. Target open date of businesses – May 4, 2020

OPERATIONAL PLAN

1. Adequate case investigations occur; positive cases will be investigated within 24 hours (Governor Category D)
2. Douglas County citizens have performed well regarding stay at home and social distancing requirements and its numbers reflect that Stay at Home and Safer at Home requirements can be reasonably adjusted within the County
3. Personal responsibility will be required whereby those positive or presumed positive, along with direct household members, remain isolated for 14 days and high-risk and older individuals are strongly encouraged to remain at home when they can (Governor Category B)
4. Constant collaboration with hospitals to ensure there is not a medical surge in excess of capacity
5. Gatherings are allowed for groups of up to 10 people (Governor Category A)
6. Individuals are required to take personal responsibility and recommended to wear non-medical face covers (Governor Category C)
7. Restaurants continue providing take-out, delivery, and curbside services
8. Businesses have established social distancing protocols with visibly posted signage
9. Support Tri-County Health Department in its testing strategy
10. Outdoor recreational facilities may be reopened under certain conditions

**ACTIONS ALLOWABLE BEGINNING APRIL 27, 2020
HIGH ECONOMIC IMPACT AND LOW PUBLIC HEALTH IMPACT**

PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY AND HIGH-RISK POPULATIONS

1. Individuals are responsible for not going out in public if sick, isolating if displaying symptoms of COVID-19, and taking adequate precautions to protect high-risk populations
2. Individuals are encouraged to follow the recommendation to wear non-medical face coverings
3. Public gatherings may occur and should not exceed 10 people provided social distancing requirements can be met
4. High-risk and older adult populations maintain social distancing levels seen under the Stay At Home Order
5. Continue supporting the healthy choices by our citizens that led to the honor of being recognized as the healthiest county in the country

COLLABORATION WITH HOSPITALS

1. No sustained surge in the number of cases requiring hospitalization as a result of COVID-19
2. Hospitals have enough supplies of PPE & ventilators to withstand predicted surges
3. Elective medical procedures may resume assuming #2 is satisfied

BUSINESSES

1. Businesses include offices, retail stores, personal services (pet grooming, salons, tattoo parlors, personal training, etc.), elective medical services/dental, real estate, childcare
2. All businesses must develop social distancing plans that comply with established protocols prior to reopening - see #8 for protocols
3. Plans will be adequately communicated, including visibly posted on site and if appropriate, posted to the business' website
4. Starting May 4, 2020 workplaces/offices are allowed up to 50% of staff on-site
5. Telework remains highly encouraged, and businesses deemed critical or governmental will be permitted to operate as indicated in the Public Health Order 20-24
6. Retail businesses may provide curbside services from April 27 through May 3, 2020 and may transition to reopening with adequate social distancing plans May 4, 2020
7. Real estate transactions may occur if all parties are practicing proper social distancing
8. Protocol guidance will be developed by the County in collaboration with Tri-County Health Department and include:
 - a. Employee requirements,
 - b. Specific operational changes essential to the protection of public health (for employees and customers),
 - c. Customer controls and crowd prevention measures – including spacing and seating requirements, and
 - d. Other requirements or controls which allow for the accommodation of the uniqueness of individual business operations

OUTDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES

1. Outdoor recreation facilities include tennis courts, skateparks, and dog parks
2. Outdoor recreation facilities may reopen if there are accommodations made to ensure social distancing and include visibly posted social distancing plans
3. Any entity managing such facilities has the authority to implement measures necessary to ensure social distance requirements are easily met, including reducing crowding and other measures that further reduce risk of transmission of COVID-19; This may include but is not limited to restricting numbers of entrants, closing areas to vehicular access, or closure to all public access

CONSIDERATIONS FOR SPECIAL FACILITIES AND EVENTS

1. Special facilities include gyms, churches, libraries, event centers, cultural venues, restaurants, bars, club houses, etc.
2. Special events include outdoor events, concerts, and community celebrations, and other large gatherings
3. Within seven days of this plan being operationalized, the County in collaboration with Tri-County Health Department will develop guidance that complies with social distancing and other precautionary requirements for reopening of special facilities and events

SITUATIONS REQUIRING FURTHER GUIDANCE

1. Businesses and recreation facilities NOT permitted to open in this phase will be based on epidemiological evidence of risk for transmission, populations that may be at higher risk for severe disease, and inability to meet the limitations on size of gatherings or congregations:
 - a. Inability to meet the limitations on size of gatherings/congregations - e.g. theaters, dine-in restaurants/bars, concert venues, club houses, etc.
 - b. Inability to control interactions among people - e.g. playgrounds, basketball courts, organized team sports such as soccer, baseball, lacrosse, and football or similar interactions, and
 - c. Services to high risk populations - e.g. senior centers