



Department of  
Public Health  
& Environment

**MARCH 12, 2020**

**STANDING PUBLIC HEALTH ORDER  
RELATED TO EVENTS**

This Order sets forth guidance and requirements for, as well as limitations on, group gatherings to slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Pursuant to Section 25-1-506 (2)(a)(I), Colorado Revised Statutes, this Order is effective within the entirety of Eagle County, including all towns within the County, until April 8, 2020.

On March 6, 2020, Eagle County declared a Local Disaster Emergency related to COVID-19. On March 10, 2020, the Governor of Colorado declared a state of Emergency related to the presence of COVID-19 in the State. The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment has confirmed that COVID-19 continues to spread throughout the State of Colorado, and community transmission of the illness has been confirmed in Eagle County.

The age, condition, and health of a significant portion of the population in Eagle County places it at risk of serious health complications, including death, from COVID-19. Although most individuals who contract COVID-19 do not become seriously ill, persons with mild symptoms and asymptomatic persons with COVID-19 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, particularly in the high country counties currently affected by community transmission, to deliver necessary healthcare to the public.

The limitations on large gatherings and use of social distancing decreases the risk of COVID-19 transmission to our most vulnerable populations , and is especially important for people who are over 60 years old and those with chronic health conditions due to their higher risk of severe illness and death from COVID-19. This Order will reduce the likelihood that many individuals will be exposed to COVID-19 at a single event, and will therefore slow the spread of COVID-19 in our communities.

This Order is adopted pursuant to the legal authority set forth in sections 25-1-506 and 25-1-508, Colorado Revised Statutes. Under these laws, the local Public Health Director has the duty to investigate and control the causes of epidemic or communicable diseases and conditions affecting public health and to establish, maintain, and enforce isolation and quarantine, and in pursuance thereof, and for this purpose only, to exercise physical control over property and over the persons of the people within the jurisdiction of the agency as the agency may find necessary for the protection of the public health. All events must follow the requirements stated herein.

## I. DEFINITIONS

For purposes of this Order:

An “Event” is a gathering that takes place indoors or outdoors for business, social, or recreational activities including, but not limited to, community, civic, public, leisure, social, or sporting events; governmental public meetings or hearings; parades; concerts; festivals; assemblies; church services; weddings; conventions; fundraisers; and similar activities. It also includes groups of people gathered into small enclosed spaces such as buses.

“Event” does not include activities that are primarily individual or occur in small groups or in non-congregate settings, such as places of employment, restaurants, or primarily small-group sports like skiing, as long as social distancing occurs, particularly in areas

where congregating in groups is unavoidable, such as lift lines or certain areas of restaurants open to the public.

“Event” does not include regular attendance of classes at schools because:

- The level of supervision by teachers and staff;
- Schools have already adjusted and increased the frequency of cleaning;
- Teachers can clean and disinfect within their respective classrooms;
- If necessary some social distancing policies can be put in place;
- Staff can monitor for illness and separate sick children and send them home;
- Students have easy access to handwashing facilities and supplies for children and teachers;
- Schools have been contacted and are taking actions that include planning, communicating with parents and families, adjusting cleaning protocols, considering what remote learning options can be implemented;
- When schools or childcare centers are closed, kids are often congregating in other locations and/or other family members (including older adults) may be necessary to provide care;
- We have learned what happens in large scale closures from H1N1 influenza in 2009. For H1N1, the disease played a more significant role in children becoming sick than with COVID-19.

However, “Event” does include congregation by students in assemblies and similar gatherings. For student groups in a school cafeteria, or the like, this order does not apply, as long as social distancing requirements are employed.

## **II. ORDER**

- A. All events of more than 50 people or more are prohibited.

**B. Events with fewer than 50 attendees are prohibited unless the following steps are employed to mitigate risks:**

1. Older adults and individuals with underlying medical conditions that are at increased risk of serious COVID-19 are encouraged not to attend (including employees).
2. Social distancing recommendations must be met. These include limiting contact of people within 6 feet from each other for 10 minutes or longer, and any other applicable guidance. See Section III, below.
3. Employees must be screened for coronavirus symptoms each day and excluded if symptomatic.
4. Proper hand hygiene and sanitation must be readily available to all attendees and employees.
5. Environmental cleaning guidelines from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) are followed (e.g., clean and disinfect high touch surfaces daily or more frequently).

### **III. FURTHER GUIDANCE**

Additional guidelines for social distancing are or soon will be available at [www.eaglecounty.us](http://www.eaglecounty.us).

### **IV. GENERAL INFORMATION FOR ALL PERSONS AFFECTED BY THIS ORDER**

ECPHE is tasked with protecting the health and welfare of the citizens of Eagle County, 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 section 25-1-508, Colorado Revised Statutes. Immediate issuance of this Order is necessary for the preservation of public health, safety, or welfare.

Any person aggrieved and affected by this Order has the right to request judicial review by filing an action with the Eagle County District Court within 90 days of the date of this

Order, pursuant to section 25-1-515, Colorado Revised Statutes. However, you must continue to obey the terms of this Order while your request for review is pending.

**FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THIS ORDER IS SUBJECT TO THE PENALTIES CONTAINED IN SECTIONS 25-1-516 AND 18-1.3-501, COLORADO REVISED STATUTES, INCLUDING A FINE OF UP TO FIVE THOUSAND (5,000) DOLLARS AND IMPRISONMENT IN THE COUNTY JAIL FOR UP TO EIGHTEEN MONTHS.**

  
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Heath Harmon  
Public Health & Environment Director

3.17.2020  
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Date

