

## **STANDING PUBLIC HEALTH ORDER RELATED TO EVENTS**

Pursuant to Colo. Rev. Stat. § 25-1-506 and other applicable authority, this Order sets forth guidance and requirements for, as well as limitations on, group gatherings to slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

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.

On March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared a National Emergency due to COVID-19.

The age, condition, and health of a significant portion of the population in Saguache 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 Saguache County 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.

This Order shall apply to all unincorporated areas of Saguache County, Colorado and all incorporated (municipal) areas that do not have their own public health agency, to wit: Town of Center, Town of Crestone, Town of Moffat, and the Town of Saguache, Colorado.

All events must follow the requirements stated herein.

## I. DEFINITIONS

For purposes of this Order:

An "Event" is a gathering for business, social, or recreational activities, or a location that engages in or allows for such activities; that takes place indoors or outdoors, including, but not limited to, community, civic, public, leisure, or sporting events; parades; concerts; festivals; assemblies; places of worship; conventions; fundraisers; restaurants that have a capacity of 50 or more persons and that have 50 or more persons present; community recreational centers; ice rinks; libraries; child care centers; and similar locations and activities.

"Event" does not include activities that are primarily individual or occur in small groups or in non-congregate settings, such as places of employment or primarily small-group sports like cross-country (Nordic) and downhill skiing, as long as social distancing occurs particularly in areas where congregating in groups is unavoidable, such as ski lift lines. "Event" also does not include places of employment for federal, state, local and special district employees, employees of public utilities or utility service providers (e.g., electric utility providers, internet service providers, water and sewer service providers). An event does not include restaurants, as long as restaurants adhere to the requirements for social distancing.

### **Schools**

At this point, we are not recommending closing schools, but we are watching the outbreak closely and may determine that school closures are necessary. Schools, parents and employers should take steps now to prepare for the possibility of prolonged mandatory closures.

In particular, schools should plan for how to continue to provide non-educational support for their students such as providing food, developmental disability support, and school-based healthcare.

## II. ORDER

- A.** All events of 50 people or more are prohibited.
- B.** Events with fewer than 50 attendees are prohibited unless event organizers take the following steps to mitigate risks:
  - a.** Older adults (age 60 and older), including employees, or individuals with underlying medical conditions that are at increased risk of serious COVID-19, including employees (collectively, "At-Risk Persons"), are not permitted to attend. For the avoidance of doubt, an "At Risk Person" who is a federal, state, local or special district government employee, an employee of a medical service provider, an employee of a place or house of worship, or an employee of a public utility or utility service provider may report to his or her job site or other location(s) if necessary to perform his or her official job duties, so long as such location(s) are otherwise in

compliance with this Order. An At Risk Person may also enter into a medical service provider's office or facility, hardware store, grocery store or discount department store for the purpose of obtaining medical care, food, clothing or other necessary items if such location is otherwise in compliance with this Order. However, At Risk Persons are discouraged from engaging in such activities wherever possible.

- b.** 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 guidance. See Section III, below.
- c.** Employees must be screened for coronavirus symptoms each day and excluded if symptomatic.
- d.** Proper hand hygiene and sanitation must be readily available to all attendees and employees.
- e.** 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**

Further guidelines for social distance are available at:

<https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/2019-novel-coronavirus>

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

If you have questions regarding this Order, please contact the Saguache County Public Health Department at 719-655-2533.

Saguache County is tasked with protecting the health and welfare of the citizens of Saguache 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 Saguache 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.

This Order is in effect until midnight Mountain time April 14, 2020, and is subject to continuing review by the Public Health Director.

**We will not be actively searching for violations, but if we receive reports of events contrary to the order, we will reach out to the organizer to educate and provide guidance.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Lynette Grant  
Public Health Director

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

I, \_\_\_\_\_ hereby acknowledge receipt of this Order.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sign

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date