



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT

**1555 North 17th Avenue
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www.weldhealth.org



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

**DECLARATION OF PANDEMIC HEALTH EMERGENCY
AND PUBLIC HEALTH ORDER
March 16, 2020**

On Saturday, March 14, 2020, the Weld County Department of Public Health and Environment was informed of two additional COVID-19 positive cases in Weld County, which brings the total number of COVID-19 positive cases in Weld County to five. COVID-19 is a highly contagious novel communicable disease and presents a severe threat to the health of persons 60 years of age and older and those with underlying health conditions and/or reduced immunity to disease and illness. Because of these positive cases and the immediate threat of the spread of COVID-19 throughout Weld County, I hereby DECLARE that a Pandemic Health Emergency exists in Weld County. I make this DECLARATION pursuant to my authority as Weld County Health Officer, set forth in Weld County Code Section 14-10-10, and as WCDPHE Director, pursuant to C.R.S. §§25-1-506, 25-1-508, and 25-1.5-102. In furtherance of this DECLARATION, I hereby issue the following PUBLIC HEALTH ORDER. This ORDER shall apply to all unincorporated areas and within municipal boundaries in Weld County, Colorado. All Events must follow the requirements stated herein.

The age, condition, and health of a significant portion of the population in Weld 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, some 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 could compromise the capability of the healthcare system in northern Colorado.

Limitations on large gatherings and use of social distancing decreases the risk of COVID-19 transmission to the 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 Weld County.

Pursuant to the legal authority set forth in C.R.S. 25-1-506, as WCDPHE Director I have 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 Weld County may I find necessary for the protection of the public health.

I. DEFINITIONS

For purposes of this ORDER:

“At-Risk Persons:” Older adults (age 60 and older), including employees, and individuals with underlying medical conditions who are at increased risk of serious COVID-19, including employees

“Event:” 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 (regardless of capacity); 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. “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), grocery stores (e.g., King Soopers, Safeway, or Sprouts), hardware stores, medical service providers (e.g., hospitals, doctor's offices, medical clinics, dental offices, physical therapists, pharmacies) or discount department stores (e.g., Wal-Mart, Dollar General).

II. ORDER

- A. All Events of 10 people or more, including employees and attendees, are prohibited.
- B. All Events at the following locations are prohibited, regardless of the number of attendees: Day-care centers, child-care centers, private schools (including pre-schools), private day schools, community recreational centers, ice rinks, and libraries.
- C. Events with fewer than 10 people, including employees and attendees, and including gatherings at all restaurants regardless of capacity, are prohibited unless event organizers take the following steps to mitigate risks:
 1. 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.

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 guidance. See Section III, below.
3. Employees must be screened for COVID-19 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

For general questions about COVID-19 in Colorado, call the state CO HELP line at 303-389-1687 or 1-877-462-2911 or email at COHELP@RMPDC.org. For factsheets and more, visit: www.weldhealth.org.

IV. GENERAL INFORMATION FOR ALL PERSONS AFFECTED BY THIS ORDER

This Order is necessary to control any potential transmission of disease to others. 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: an action with the Weld County District Court within 90 days of the date of this ORDER, pursuant to section C.R.S. § 25-1-515. However, the aggrieved person must continue to obey the terms of this ORDER while the request for review is pending.

This ORDER is in effect until 11:59 p.m. on April 8, 2020, and is subject to continuing review by the WCDPHE Director.

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



Dr. Mark Wallace, M.D.
Weld County Health Officer and WCDPHE Director