



RIO GRANDE COUNTY
Public Health

MARCH 16, 2020
STANDING PUBLIC HEALTH ORDER
RELATED TO EVENTS

Pursuant to Section 25-1- 506 (2)(a)(I), Colorado Revised Statutes, this Order is effective within the entirety of Rio Grande County, including all towns within the County, until May 10, 2020.

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.

On March 15, 2020, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issued guidance to cancel or postpone in-person events that consist of 50 people or more throughout the United States for 8 weeks. On March 16, 2020, the President of the United States issued a statement including recommendations to avoid gatherings of 10 or more people.

The age, condition, and health of a significant portion of the population in Rio Grande 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 to deliver necessary healthcare to the public.



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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 group gathering that takes place indoors or outdoors with a capacity of 10 or more persons and that have 10 or more persons present in one room or continuous space.

"Event" does not include activities that are primarily individual or occur in small groups or in non-congregate settings, such as places of employment and restaurants, as long as persons present are able to maintain adequate social



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distancing, as well as hygiene and sanitization recommendations as defined below. At this point, this order also does not pertain to schools.

II. ORDER

- A. All events 10 people or more are prohibited.
- B. Events with fewer than 10 attendees are prohibited unless the following steps are employed to mitigate risks:
 - 1. Older adults (age 60 and older) and individuals with underlying medical conditions that are at increased risk of serious COVID-19, including employees, are encouraged not to attend.
 - 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. Individuals who are sick must stay home.
 - 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

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





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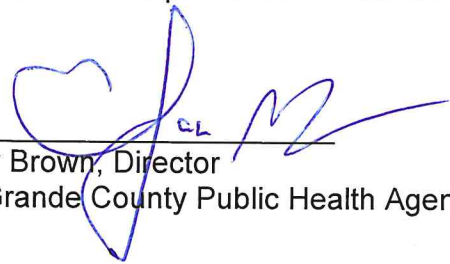
Public Health

Rio Grande County Public Health is tasked with protecting the health and welfare of the citizens of Rio Grande 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 Rio Grande 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 Standard Time May 10, 2020, and is subject to continuing review by the Public Health Director consistent with recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

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, provide guidance, and enforce the provisions of this order, if necessary.



Emily Brown, Director
Rio Grande County Public Health Agency

3-16-2020

Date

