



Department of  
Public Health  
& Environment

April 16, 2020

Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment  
Attention: Jill Hunsaker Ryan, Executive Director  
4300 Cherry Creek Drive South  
Denver, CO 80246  
and *via email*

Dear Ms. Ryan,

Eagle County, through the Director of Eagle County Public Health and Environment, is respectfully requesting partial relief from the provisions of the Governor Polis's Executive Order D 2020 017, CDPHE Order 20-22, and CDPHE Order 20-24 (the "State Orders"). Specifically, Eagle County is requesting exemptions from the provisions in the State Orders that impose stringent stay-at-home requirements, prohibit travel except for Necessary Activities, strictly prohibit gatherings of any size, disallow certain types of businesses, and limit the businesses that may remain open only to those identified as critical or those performing minimum basic operations. Relief from these provisions will allow Eagle County to tailor its future public health orders to effectively meet the needs of its community, improve behavioral health of citizens, and begin economic recovery for businesses and workers alike.

As Eagle County sees the COVID-19 curve flatten and the number of cases decrease because of the county's early and aggressive social distancing restrictions, and sees the impact of the counties substantial restrictions on residents, I have determined that the community now will receive greater health benefits from incrementally loosening restrictions as disease activity continues to recede. Doing so will not burden public health resources in other parts of the state because through public health orders, Eagle County will still regulate social behaviors, events, which businesses may be open, travel into and around the county, and the like, to control

transmission of the disease.

The first phase Eagle County Plan for Sustainable Social Distancing, attached as Attachment A, which includes a required Social Distancing Protocol for businesses that may be allowed to open at Attachment B, describes the current and anticipated conditions as a result of Eagle County's public health restrictions that justify relief from the State Orders. The Community Reopening Plan demonstrates that disease prevalence is consistently reducing as a result of local containment measures. In addition, hospital capacity in Eagle County remains adequate to address COVID-19 cases as well as other medical issues. The conditions within Eagle County are significantly improving and do not warrant all the restrictions within the current State Orders. Allowing Eagle County to customize its restrictions specifically to the conditions in the county will allow comprehensive community recovery, both in terms of health and economy. Therefore, I am respectfully requesting that you grant Eagle County's request for relief from certain of the restrictions in the State's Orders.



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Heath Harmon  
Public Health & Environment Director

# Attachment A

## **Eagle County Plan for Sustainable Social Distancing - The First Incremental Step to Reopening**

April 15, 2020

### **Purpose**

To develop a local plan for sustaining social distancing associated with COVID-19 in an incremental fashion that slowly lifts restrictions, prevents a resurgence of disease in the community, and allows our community to begin the social and economic recovery.

### **Operational Plan**

- Real-time KPI dashboard will be available for public and state monitoring.
- Maintain rapid PCR testing 7-days/week across the entire County.
- Newly reported cases of COVID-19 continue to decrease or flatten out at level that does not exceed capacity to investigate.
- Newly reported cases of COVID-19 will be investigated within 24 hours of receipt.
- All cases will be adequately isolated for minimum of 7 days with an objective of no household transmission.
- Maintain capacity of the health and medical system to meet the community's medical needs.
- Maintain the real-time monitoring of all outpatient and inpatient visits looking for any indications of increased community illness.
- Maintain a PPE stock to respond to a community-wide outbreak spanning over a 8 week period.
- Protect residents that may be at greatest risk for severe disease (Adults 60 years of age and older, people with underlying health conditions).
- All businesses will have a social distancing protocol in place prior to re-opening.
- Behavioral health needs of our community will continue to be met, regardless of ability to pay.
- Partner with CDPHE and serve as a pilot for incremental reopening, where lessons learned could be shared more widely for other jurisdictions throughout the state.

### **Background**

This plan is based on the [National Coronavirus Response, A Road Map to Reopening](#) by AEI in consultation with Johns Hopkins University. Further below we describe a first phase of lifting low risk restrictions that may also have a high benefit to the community. The first phase proposed is in alignment with a common approach with other local public health agencies that outlines 3 phases for incremental reopening.

The National Coronavirus Response, A Road Map to Reopening outlines the following four triggers should be met before lifting restrictions:

1. A sustained decrease in cases for at least 14 days
2. Hospitals are safely able to treat patients without resorting to crisis standards of care

3. Testing can be performed for all people with symptoms consistent with COVID-19 infection
4. Active monitoring can be accomplished for all COVID-19 cases and their contacts

Eagle County has met the triggers outlined above and we are confident we are ready to take a step from the suppression and response phase to a reopening phase. Below is further description of how Eagle County is meeting these requirements:

1. **We have a sustained reduction in cases for at least 14 days.**
  - a. All data in Eagle County indicates a peak 3-4 weeks ago (Mar 16-Mar 21).
  - b. This can be demonstrated by self-reports of onset, onset dates from lab-confirmed cases, test date for lab confirmed cases, out-patient and in-patient hospital data and positivity rate for tests performed.
  - c. Each of these indicators continues to demonstrate a steady drop in new cases being reported.
  - d. Most concerning is the increase in behavioral health needs. Telehealth visits are continuing to increase for the third straight week. Our community is experiencing a great deal of fear, anxiety and depression within our community regarding job loss and isolation. In addition, our ED at Vail Health is indicating more behavioral health visits than respiratory/ILI visits.
2. **Our Eagle County Hospitals are safely able to treat all patients requiring hospitalization without resorting to crisis standards of care.**
  - a. The data for hospital and medical system capacity mirrors the disease surveillance data.
  - b. This is demonstrated by peak admission and ED visits between March 26 and March 31 and zero COVID-19 patients in ICU since April 5, and only 1 COVID-19 patient in the PCU.
  - c. Reports from Vail Health and from Eagle County Paramedics reflect we are beyond medical surge by 2-3 weeks.
  - d. Vail Health and Colorado Mountain Medical have reinstated wellness and preventative visits as of April 13. This is also true for other medical providers in Eagle County.
  - e. Indications from hospitals in neighboring Counties of Pitkin and Garfield indicate a similar trend with current census being low.
3. **Eagle County is able to test all people with COVID-19 symptoms**
  - a. Testing capacity in the Eagle Valley is robust and can be performed 7 days a week.
  - b. Results had been delayed previously but are now being returned with 24-48 hours from Quest and Denver Health.

- c. FDA approved Point of care tests are in place and through contracts with local hospital-based laboratories, which provide test results in less than 45 mins from collection.

**4. Eagle County is able to conduct active monitoring of confirmed cases and their contacts.**

- a. The capacity for disease prevention staff has been increased during the COVID-19 response and will be maintained for the duration of this event.
- b. With fewer cases being reported that capacity to actively monitor each patient is the highest priority. This includes case investigations and contact tracing, as well as ensuring active monitoring, housing and other necessities for the duration of isolation and/or quarantine.
- c. Issuance of orders will be automated to the degree possible to ensure patients receive orders on the date of report.
- d. If available, monitoring technology will be deployed to assist with getting patients through their isolation period but will not replace the need for adequate staffing.

**Phase 1 - Lifting restrictions that have low risk for community spread of COVID-19 and have medium to high benefit for the residents and community**

**Limitations on Public Private Gatherings/Congregations**

- Increase the size of permissible gatherings from zero to 10.
- Gatherings greater than 10 would still be prohibited.

**Businesses**

- Permit conditional opening of non-critical, non-essential, non-governmental businesses in Eagle County.
- Continue to implement a requirement for a Social Distancing Protocol prior to re-opening
  - Provides clear expectations for employees and customers, including
    - Protecting employee health
    - Preventing crowds
    - Ensuring effective distancing
    - Increasing sanitization
    - Preventing unnecessary contact
    - Reducing exposures in transportation
    - Includes symptom screening for employees
  - Required for all businesses that begin to operate again
  - Regardless of being open to the public or not
  - Will be posted physically on site and will be posted on each businesses web site
  - Is a tool for enforcement if violation complaints are received

- For businesses not open to the public, the limitations on staff size will be maintained at 50% or 10, whichever is least restrictive with appropriate social distancing protocols in place.
- Telework is still highly encouraged.
- Businesses that are deemed critical or governmental as outlined in the state public health order 20-24, will still be permitted to operate as indicated.
- Guidance will be developed to assist businesses and residents in understanding the expectations for social distancing:
  - Crowd Control - number of people per square foot of store/office space and appropriate spacing.
  - Face coverings guidance will also be provided and include where they are recommended, if and when they are required, and if they are not necessary
  - Alternative models for delivery goods will still be encouraged, e.g. online purchasing with home-delivery or curbside pick-up.
  - Examples and best-practices of how businesses have already completed the social distancing protocol can be made available to assist others developing their protocol.

### **Recreation**

- Permit the opening of outdoor recreation facilities where adequate controls can be implemented to ensure social distancing and prevent gatherings of greater than 10.
- Any entity managing such lands 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.
- Outdoor recreation activity at Parks, Open Spaces, or Open Lands is limited to Local Residents as defined in the current Eagle County Public Health Order.
- Consider restrictions being maintained for restrooms.

### **Ongoing Prohibitions**

- 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:
  - Inability to meet the limitations on size of gatherings/congregations - e.g. theaters, dine-in restaurants/bars, concert venues, etc.
  - Inability to control interactions between people - e.g. playgrounds, basketball courts.
  - Services to high risk populations - e.g. senior centers.

**Eagle County Business Social Distancing Protocol**

*Must be completed for each facility or work site*

Business Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Facility Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Approx. gross square footage of space open to the public: \_\_\_\_\_

**Businesses must implement all applicable measures listed below, and be prepared to explain why any measure that is not implemented is inapplicable to the business.**

**Signage**

- Signs have been placed at each public entrance of the facility or work site to inform all employees and customers that they should: avoid entering the facility or location if they have a cough or fever; maintain a minimum six-foot distance from one another; sneeze and cough into a cloth or tissue or, if not available, into one’s elbow; and not shake hands or engage in any unnecessary physical contact.  
*[sign template [here](#), also attached]*
- A copy of this Social Distancing Protocol has been placed at each public entrance to the work site.

**Measures To Protect Employee Health** *(check all that apply to the facility or work site)*

- Everyone who can carry out their work duties from home has been directed to do so.
- Individual discussions have taken place with employees about the fact that older adults and those with chronic medical conditions may be at higher risk for serious illness. Options have been explained to high risk employees, including ways to minimize face-to-face interactions, maintaining six feet of distance from other people, remote work if possible, and leave policies for employees who choose not to come to work.
- All employees have been told not to come to work if sick (including any of the following: headache, sore throat, fever, dry cough, recent inability to taste and smell, shortness of breath, ear aches, body aches, diarrhea, fatigue, vomiting, and abdominal pain).
- Symptom checks are being conducted before employees may enter the work site. *[template attached]*
- Copies of this Protocol have been distributed to all employees.
- Optional — Describe other measures:  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Measures To Keep People At Least Six Feet Apart** (check all that apply to the facility or work site)

- All employees have been instructed to maintain at least six feet of distance from customers and each other (employees may momentarily come closer when needed to accept payment, deliver goods or services, or when otherwise unavoidable).
- All desks, individual work stations, or work areas are separated by at least six feet.
- Tape or other markings have been placed at least six feet apart in customer line areas inside the store and on sidewalks to public entrances with signs directing customers to use the markings to maintain distance.
- Order areas are separated from delivery areas to prevent customers from gathering.
- Optional — Describe other measures:  

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**Measures To Prevent Crowds From Gathering:** (check all that apply to the facility or work site)

- The number of customers in the store at any one time is limited to \_\_\_\_\_, which allows for customers and employees to easily maintain at least six-foot distance from one another at all practicable times.
- An employee is monitoring the door to ensure that the maximum number of customers in the facility set forth above is not exceeded.
- Optional—Describe other measures:  

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**Measures To Increase Sanitization** (check all that apply to the facility or work site)

- Hand sanitizer, soap and water, or effective disinfectant is available to the public and employees at or near the entrance of the facility or work site, at checkout counters, workstations, and anywhere else where people have direct interactions. Location(s) include:  

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- Disinfecting wipes or spray that is effective against COVID-19 are available near workstations and all high-contact surfaces (including payment portals, carts, baskets, pens, shared tools, heavy equipment, etc.). Location(s) include:  

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- Employee(s) have been assigned to disinfect all high-contact surfaces frequently.
- Break rooms, bathrooms, and other common areas are being disinfected on the following schedule:
  - Break Rooms 

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  - Bathrooms 

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  - Other 

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- Optional — Describe other measures:  

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**Measures To Prevent Unnecessary Contact** (check all that apply to the facility or work site)

- Contactless payment systems have been provided or, if not feasible, payment systems are sanitized regularly. Describe:

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- Curb-side drop-off/pick-up of products is available.
- People are prevented from self-serving any items that are food-related (including bulk food, plates, cups, lids, etc.).
- Optional—Describe other measures (e.g. providing senior-only hours):

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**Measures To Reduce Exposures in Employee Transportation** (check all that apply to the facility or work site)

- Hand sanitizer is used by each passenger when entering the vehicle.
- The number of passengers has been reduced by 50% of the vehicle’s occupancy, and passengers sit in locations to maximize the distance between one another.
- Passengers will wear a non-medical, cloth face-covering when in a vehicle containing more than 1 person.
- Windows will remain open and ventilation is increased.
- All high-contact surfaces of the vehicle are disinfected at the end of each day.

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*Any additional measures not included here should be listed on separate pages,  
which the business may attach to this document.*

**You may contact the following person with any questions or comments about this protocol:**

**Name:**

**Phone number:**

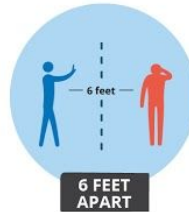
# This business is complying with Colorado and Eagle County Public Health Orders

Please observe the following rules:



FEVER

Avoid this area if you have a cough or fever or are otherwise experiencing symptoms of the virus



6 FEET APART

Maintain a minimum six-foot distance between you and others



COUGH

Sneeze or cough into a tissue, or into your elbow; place used tissue in the trash



No Hand Shaking

Do not shake hands or engage in unnecessary physical contact with others

Thank you for respecting these rules to protect everyone's health.

# Este negocio cumple con las órdenes de Salud Pública de Colorado y del condado de Eagle.

Por favor observe las siguientes reglas:



FIEBRE

Evite esta área si tiene tos o fiebre o si experimenta síntomas del virus.



6 PIES DE DISTANCIA

Mantenga una distancia mínima de seis pies entre usted y otras personas.



TOS

Estornude o tosa. en un pañuelo de papel o en el codo; coloque los pañuelos usados en la basura



NO DÉ LA MANO A OTROS

No dé la mano a otros ni participe en contacto físico innecesario con otras personas

Gracias por respetar estas reglas para proteger la salud de todos.



[www.eaglecounty.us/covid19](http://www.eaglecounty.us/covid19) | [CovidQuestions@eaglecounty.us](mailto:CovidQuestions@eaglecounty.us)  
970-328-9750

# Daily Symptom Check-In

\*\*\*If symptoms are reported, please stay home, isolate yourself from other family members, and call your medical provider\*\*\*

**Employer Name:**

**Date:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Do you have any of the following symptoms today (y/n)?</b> COVID-19 symptoms include -- Headache, sore throat, fever, dry cough, recent inability to taste or smell, shortness of breath, body aches, fatigue, diarrhea, vomiting, abdominal pain.