

APRIL 27, 2020
STANDING PUBLIC HEALTH ORDER
RELATED TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND IMPLEMENTATION OF
GRAND COUNTY COVID-19 MITIGATION AND SUPPRESSION PLAN

PURPOSE

This Public Health Order is being issued:

- To continue keeping the citizens of Grand County, Colorado, safe from COVID-19 exposure and transmission as the State enters the "Safer at Home" phase.
- To assist the County's healthcare providers, governments, businesses, and the rest of the public with understanding and complying with the continuously evolving State-imposed restrictions to prevent the spread of COVID-19, keep vulnerable populations safe, and protect our healthcare system.
- To provide our community with necessary procedures as we move through the various, potentially fluctuating, phases of the COVID-19 pandemic, and to assist and guide the citizens of Grand County in a safe and efficient transition.
- To inform the public of the strategies associated with each phase and to assist business owners with compliance.
- To order that any business, public or private gathering, or organized recreation that intends to open or take place under the State's public health orders must comply with business requirements, best practices and guidance established by Grand County Public Health (GCPH) and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) and businesses must complete a COVID-19 Compliance Verification Form and display resulting acceptance documentation prior to opening.

[The purpose of the Compliance Verification Form is to assist employers in safely reopening their businesses with protective mitigation and suppression strategies. It allows Public Health to work with businesses that have unique characteristics and needs to develop and/or institute practices that will allow as many businesses to open as soon as practical. The Compliance Verification Form also allows a mechanism for code and law enforcement to respond more efficiently to citizen complaints and safety concerns.]

MOST RESTRICTIVE STANDARD CONTROLS

To the extent that any State and/or Federal orders or laws are more restrictive than what is set forth herein, such State and/or Federal orders will supersede this order. Individuals should be aware that new orders are being issued on an almost daily basis from Colorado's Governor Jared

Polis and the Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE), and all members of the public are responsible for following the Governor's orders, CDPHE orders, and local orders.

ORDER

Any business, public or private gathering, or organized recreation that intends to open or take place while the Governor's and CDPHE's COVID-19 "Safer at Home" and other state and local public health orders remain in place must also comply with the Grand County COVID-19 Mitigation and Suppression Plan. Compliance includes:

- Businesses, employers and sole proprietors shall comply with business requirements, best practices and guidance established by GCPH and the CDPHE. Guidance documents can be found on the Grand County website at co.grand.co.us/saferathome.
- Businesses, employers and sole proprietors shall submit a Compliance Verification Form through Grand County Public Health and display approved acceptance documentation prior to opening and receiving customers. The Verification Form can be found on the Grand County website at co.grand.co.us/saferathome.
- Any business, public or private gathering, or organized recreation that is not in compliance with this and other applicable State and local public health orders shall cease operation or activity.

Please note that due to the constantly changing course of the COVID-19 pandemic and local health, economic, social, and resource factors, local, state and federal public health guidance and compliance documents should be consulted regularly as they will necessarily be changing over time.

FINDINGS

While Grand County has implemented few restrictions at the local level, the COVID-19 pandemic orders of the Governor and State apply in Grand County and must be followed. Local expertise, however, is necessary to not only ensure that public health is protected but that the State restrictions can be navigated in a manner least cumbersome to the economic and social infrastructure of Grand County.

Best practices in public health pandemic recovery include all of the following: ensuring that a community is beyond the apex of the pandemic's transmission curve (no new cases for fourteen days), increased and monitored hospital capacity, widespread testing capability, and considerable public health capacity to contact trace and immediately isolate or quarantine. Because of the difficulty to date of securing resources throughout the state and country, many of these important benchmarks have not yet been met in our community.

Many Grand County stakeholders may feel that relaxing stay-at-home orders and opening many businesses feels premature, yet we need to support our community's mental health and begin

addressing our economic needs. We also acknowledge that Grand County citizens are concerned about the impending summer season and the difficulty of isolating our citizens from the rest of the world.

Many Grand County businesses have expressed concern about having to backtrack and lay off personnel again if the prevalence of the virus increases in our communities. Local public health officials hope that by implementing a cautious and calculated approach to reopening, the County will avoid those situations and make the advances needed. The goal is to meet every benchmark and phase transition with a “Hold or Go” decision. To ensure that every benchmark and phase transition is met with a “Go” decision, we must rely on our fellow citizens to maintain appropriate social distancing and hygiene, comply with face covering requirements, follow Grand County COVID-19 business procedures, and continue to emphasize the entire community’s safety. We appreciate the community’s commitment over the last two months and value the continued dedication toward moving our county safely forward--for the health of our people and sake of our businesses.

While the importance of compliance and enforcement should not be minimized, it is Public Health and law enforcement’s goal to continue to be deferential to the rights and privileges of our citizens and the compliance approach used to date of relying on education and cooperation. To that end, Grand County Public Health has been producing measures, procedures, and guidelines for safely moving forward that should be followed to minimize this health crisis and get the community to “Go” as expediently as possible. It should be understood that due to the uncertainties and lack of research surrounding COVID-19, these efforts will continue to be a work in progress. It is likely that progress to stem the tide of the pandemic will be slowed or stalled at times. Procedures and guidelines may need to be altered as more information and facts are learned. Moreover, response and recovery efforts are complicated at the local level by the need to be reactive and flexible to changes at the state level. Despite these potential obstacles, local health officials are striving for as much consistency as possible, and encourage community feedback to help with those efforts.

Finally, the Findings of prior Grand County Public Health COVID-19 public health orders are incorporated herein by reference and more information can be found at the contacts and links identified in this order.

AUTHORITY AND ENFORCEMENT

This Order is adopted pursuant to the legal authority set forth in sections 25-1-506, 25-1-508, and 25-1-509 of the Colorado Revised Statutes, as well as other applicable laws, rules, regulations, orders, and declarations. Under these laws and regulations, the Grand County Public Health Director has the duty to investigate and control the causes of epidemic or communicable diseases and conditions affecting public health; to prohibit the gatherings of people to protect the 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 Grand County as Grand County Public Health may find necessary for the protection of the public health.

FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THIS ORDER IS, IN ADDITION TO THE ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITIES AVAILABLE TO STATE AUTHORITIES, SUBJECT TO LOCAL ENFORCEMENT AND 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 (18) MONTHS.

EFFECTIVE DATE AND TIME

This Public Health Order will become effective immediately, and will remain in effect until further notice.

EFFECTIVE AREA OF ORDER

This Public Health Order is effective within the entirety of Grand County, including all towns within Grand County.

CONTINUED EFFECTIVENESS OF PRIOR ORDERS

This Order is not intended to limit, rescind, alter, or amend any other applicable public health orders, restrictions, or requirements, other than as specifically stated herein.

FURTHER GUIDANCE & INFORMATION RESOURCES

1. co.grand.co.us/covid19
2. co.grand.co.us/saferathome
3. covid19.colorado.gov
4. covid19.colorado.gov/safer-at-home

For questions regarding Grand County's COVID-19 response please contact the Grand County Joint Information Center at 970-725-3803 or email jicgrandcounty@gmail.com.

To report violations of this Order or others, please visit co.grand.co.us/violation.

Grand County Public Health is tasked with protecting the health and welfare of the citizens of Grand 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 Grand 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.



April 27, 2020

E. Brene Belew-LaDue, RN, BSN
Director Grand County Public Health

Date