



PUBLIC HEALTH ORDER 2020-02
NOTICE OF BOULDER COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH ORDER
REQUIRING FACIAL COVERINGS IN PUBLIC WHERE
SOCIAL DISTANCING CANNOT BE MAINTAINED

Pursuant to Colorado Revised Statutes (“C.R.S.”) §§ 25-1-506, 508, 509, and 516, Boulder County Public Health hereby issues this Public Health Order requiring facial coverings to be worn in public where social distancing cannot be maintained throughout Boulder County, Colorado, so as to control and slow the spread of the SARS-CoV-2 virus (“coronavirus”) and to mitigate the effects of the disease resulting therefrom (the coronavirus and the disease resulting therefrom shall be referred to herein as “COVID-19”). The goal of this Order shall be to control and reduce the spread of COVID-19, so as to maintain consistent health care capacity in Boulder County to adequately treat patients suffering from the disease.

FINDINGS

Whereas, Boulder County Public Health (“BCPH”) has public health jurisdiction over Boulder County, including all cities and towns therein. In furtherance of its jurisdiction, BCPH has the power and duty to investigate and control the causes of epidemic or communicable diseases and conditions affecting the public health within Boulder County, as well as the power and duty to close schools and public places and to prohibit gatherings of people when necessary to protect public health, and to establish, maintain, and enforce isolation and quarantine, and in pursuance thereof, to exercise physical control over property and over persons within Boulder County as BCPH may find necessary for the protection of public health; and

Whereas, COVID-19 is a respiratory illness transmitted like other respiratory illnesses through person-to-person contact or by contact with surfaces contaminated with the virus. Persons infected with COVID-19 may become symptomatic anywhere from two (2) to fourteen (14) days after exposure. Symptoms include fever, cough, shortness of breath, or difficulty breathing. Individuals with serious chronic health conditions and older adults are most at risk for becoming very ill with this disease; and

Whereas, COVID-19 was first detected in Wuhan, China, in late 2019, and since then has spread to over 180 countries and territories, including the United States. As of May 1, 2020, there are 15,768 confirmed or probable positive cases of COVID-19 statewide in Colorado and 633 confirmed or probable positive cases in Boulder County, Colorado, as well as 820 deaths related to COVID-19 statewide and 40 deaths in Boulder County; and

Whereas, on March 10, 2020, the Governor of Colorado (“Governor”), Jared Polis, declared a State of Emergency related to the presence of COVID-19 in the State of Colorado; and

Whereas, on March 14, 2020, the Chair of the Board of County Commissioners for Boulder County declared a local disaster emergency, which, on March 19, 2020, was extended by the Board of County Commissioners for Boulder County; and

Whereas, on April 17, 2020, the Governor of the State of Colorado issued Executive Order D2020-039, requiring workers in critical businesses and critical government functions to wear a non-medical mask covering their nose and mouth while at work and while serving the public, and directing the Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (“CDPHE”) to issue a public health order consistent with the directives in the Executive Order (“April 17 EO D2020-039”); and

Whereas, on April 22, 2020, the Executive Director of CDPHE, pursuant to Colorado Revised Statutes §§ 25-1.5-101(1)(a) and 25-1.5-102(1)(a)(I), issued an Order requiring employees who work in close proximity to other employees or with the public to wear a non-medical or medical face covering unless doing so would inhibit the individual’s health, and recommending that these employees should wear gloves if gloves are provided by their employer (“April 22 CDPHE Order”); and

Whereas, on April 24, 2020, the Executive Director of Boulder County Public Health issued Boulder County Public Health Order Adopting and Extending State Stay-At-Home Orders (“Boulder County Stay-At-Home Order”), extending the closure of non-critical businesses and requiring individuals within Boulder County to stay at home except for necessary travel; and

Whereas, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”), Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (“CDPHE”), and Boulder County Public Health (“BCPH”) have recommended that members of the public, when they need to interact with others outside the home and especially in settings where many people are present, should cover their mouths and noses to prevent inadvertently spreading COVID-19. One key transmission method for the COVID-19 virus is through respiratory droplets that people expel when they breathe, cough, or sneeze. Moreover, people can be infected with the COVID-19 virus and be asymptomatic yet still be contagious. People can also be contagious 48 hours before developing symptoms. Many people with COVID-19 have mild symptoms and do not recognize that they are infected and contagious and that they can unintentionally infect others; and

Whereas, the Boulder County Stay-At-Home Order is set to expire on May 8, 2020; and

Whereas, Boulder County’s moving from Stay-At-Home to Safer-At-Home will result in the easing of social-distancing restrictions in Boulder County; and

Whereas, scientific evidence shows that limiting interactions among people slows virus transmission and, as social distancing restrictions are lifted, that the wearing of facial coverings by individuals while in public areas may assist in maintaining reduced virus transmission by reducing the spread of respiratory droplets; and

Whereas, a facial covering mandate can work in concert with reduced social distancing restrictions under Safer-At-Home to minimize the spread of COVID-19 by reducing the exposure of individuals to the virus necessary to protect vulnerable populations and to prevent the health care system from becoming overwhelmed.

ORDER

Pursuant to statutory authority granted to the Executive Director of BCPH, the following is ordered:

1. Each person within Boulder County, except as specifically exempted below, must wear a Face Covering whenever they are outside their residence and unable to maintain, or when not maintaining, social distance of at least six (6) feet from any non-household members. These requirements supplement and are in addition to any social distancing orders.
2. “Face Covering,” as used in this Order, means a covering made of cloth, fabric, or other soft or permeable material, without holes, that covers only the nose and mouth and surrounding areas of the lower face. A Face Covering may be factory-made or may be handmade and improvised by using ordinary household materials. The Face Covering should fit snugly but comfortably against the side of the face; allow for breathing without restriction; and either be constructed of disposable mask materials or include multiple layers of fabric that can be laundered and machine-dried without damage or change to shape. Face Coverings must cover the nose and mouth at all times and should remain in place until taken off safely. If a worker’s Face Covering moves during work, it must be replaced with one that does not need to be frequently adjusted in order to reduce touching of the face. A Face Covering should be replaced when it becomes dirty, wet, and/or difficult to breathe through.

Note that any mask that incorporates a one-way valve (typically a raised plastic cylinder about the size of a quarter on the front or side of the mask) that is designed to facilitate easy exhaling is not a Face Covering under this Order and is not to be used to comply with this Order’s requirements. Valves of that type permit droplet release from the mask and can put others nearby at risk.

A video showing how to make a face covering and additional information about how to wear and clean Face Coverings may be found on the CDC’s website at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html>.

3. “Residence,” as used in this Order, means the real property upon which an individual resides with other members of his or her household. Residence does not include any common areas that may be used by multiple households. “Residence” also includes a motor vehicle when being used for personal use by an individual or their same household. Residence does not include any vehicle used for public transportation, paratransit vehicles, taxis, private car services, or ride-sharing vehicles when used for that purpose.
4. A Face Covering is not required as follows:
 - a. In any commercial or retail setting when any person is alone in such space (a single, fully enclosed room) when others outside of that person’s household are not present and the public does not regularly visit the room. That individual must put on a Face Covering when coworkers are located six feet or less from the individual, when being visited by a client/customer, and anywhere members of the public or other coworkers are regularly present.

- b. For any person whose health would be inhibited by wearing a Face Covering. If a person is an employee whose health would be inhibited by wearing a Face Covering while at work, they must document such concerns with their employer.
 - c. With exception of an unforeseen emergency (e.g. law enforcement officers responding to an immediate threat), first responders are required to wear a Face Covering under this Order. However, this Order does not preempt CDPHE Order 20-26, which does require first responders to wear Face Coverings.
5. This Order does not require any child aged twelve (12) years or younger to wear a Face Covering. Parents and caregivers must supervise the use of Face Coverings by children to avoid misuse. In addition, this Order advises that children **under age three years should not** wear a Face Covering due to the risk of suffocation.
 6. Nothing in this Order should be construed to preempt any State of Colorado regulations (including CDPHE Orders) concerning medical face coverings.

Along with CDPHE, BCPH is tasked with protecting the health and welfare of the citizens of Boulder County by investigating and controlling cases of epidemic and communicable disease. This Order is necessary to control the transmission of disease to others. Immediate issuance of this Order is necessary for the preservation of public health, safety, or welfare.

If you have questions regarding this Order, please contact the BCPH Call Center at 720-776-0822 or view the COVID-19 information on BCPH’s website at BoCo.org/COVID-19.

This BCPH Public Health Order shall be in effect from May 9, 2020, at 12:01 a.m., and continuing until midnight on May 26, 2020, unless earlier amended, extended, or rescinded by the Executive Director of BCPH.

FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THIS ORDER IS SUBJECT TO PENALTIES CONTAINED IN C.R.S. §§ 25-1-114 and 25-1-516, INCLUDING A FINE OF UP TO FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$5,000.00) AND IMPRISONMENT IN THE COUNTY JAIL FOR UP TO ONE YEAR.



Jeffrey J. Zayach, MS
Executive Director
Boulder County Public Health

May 2, 2020

Date

APPROVED BY BOULDER COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH:

May 2, 2020