

## **Variance Request to Governor Polis Executive Order 2020 044 Safer at Home and CDPHE Order 20-28.**

Using the joint effort of Colorado Association of Local Health Officials (CALPHO) work Colorado Roadmap-The New Normal. This work references AEI's National Coronavirus Response A Roadmap to Reopening, When and How to Close due to COVID-19 Spread from Prevent Pandemics, and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration Guidance on Preparing Workplaces for COVID-19.

We currently, or will very shortly meet the 5 criteria listed in the CALPHO Roadmap:

- 1. A sustained decrease in cases for at least 14 days:** There have been 11 total cases of COVID-19, 1 known case among healthcare workers (assigned to another county due to permanent address outside our county), no outbreaks within skilled nursing facilities and no hospital admissions for COVID-19. Our county has a population of just over 12,000 residents and testing capacity is at about 10 per day and is available through a community testing site and the local hospital. We generally have been following 1-2 "active" cases and their contacts at most, other than one group of close contacts which was 1 positive, 5 probable and their contacts.
- 2. Hospitals are safely able to treat patients without resorting to crisis standards of care:** Prowers Medical Center's COVID-19 amendment to the Emergency Operations Plan was developed to address the surge of suspected or positive COVID-19 patients on the healthcare campus. With the facility space conversions implemented within this plan, Hospital Bed Capacity at Prowers Medical Center consists of the following capabilities: Inpatient Unit consists of eight (8) Negative Air Pressure rooms; twelve (12) regular rooms; and with the conversion of the Respiratory Therapy unit into a five (5) bed Special Care Unit (SCU), inpatient capacity has expanded to 25 patient rooms.  
Space has been transitioned within the Surgical Services Suite into a seven (7) bed ICU with seven (7) ventilators to care for the more critically ill COVID-19 positive patients. This would only be used if patients were not able to be transferred to a higher acuity facility.  
The Rehabilitation Services Gym has been transitioned into a step-down unit consisting of 15 beds. The Hospital currently has a Bed Capacity of 47 on our healthcare campus.  
Prowers Medical Center will be taxed and short of staff should it meet capacity and fill all 47 beds. A shortage of over 70 staff will occur. Currently PPE stock is adequate. See triggers for reverting to State orders for more information.
- 3. Testing can be performed for all people with symptoms consistent with COVID-19 infection:** Prowers County has a Community Testing site which is a partnership between our local hospital, public health and the local FQHC. We are providing drive-thru testing 5 days a week by appointment. We currently have the capacity to test 10 people per day and this can be scaled up. With the government stated goal to test 2% of the population (approximately 250), we will be able to meet this with our current set up and supply. We are currently focused on holding capacity for those with symptoms per current guidelines and will move to asymptomatic testing as guidelines change, providing that Labcorp will ramp up testing supply availability by June. We aim to get people tested within 1-2 days of symptom onset and have been receiving test results within 24 hours of the state lab receipt of the specimen and 2-3 days from Labcorp. The hospital also has testing capability.

4. **Active monitoring can be accomplished for all COVID-19 cases and their contacts:** Isolation and quarantine guidance can be done within 12 hours of case report, 7 days per week. We have the capacity currently to actively monitor and support those in isolation. We have staff that will mobilize to assist in this work should our needs increase and have a Department Operation Center (DOC) Structure to support the use of people from other programs to assist should that become necessary. We are prepared to issue official orders for isolation and quarantine should they be necessary. Currently all parties have voluntarily complied and our staff talks to them twice daily.
  
5. **Clear protocol in place that requires social distancing and assists with case investigation:**  
We continue to promote staying at home as much as possible for those who are most vulnerable (those 65 and older, those who are pregnant or have chronic medical conditions). Tele-work is encouraged for these employees whenever possible. Screening for COVID-19 symptoms upon entry at the workplace are present in our local guidance. Social distancing guidance to keep people 6 feet apart in general, 15 feet when engaging in exercise is promoted. Mask use is being modeled by most and increasing in public spaces over time. We are investigating complaints and working with the local business organizations such as the Chamber of Commerce and economic development association to monitor and support businesses. Local law enforcement is assisting in educating the public about best practices and order requirements.

#### COVID-19 Suppression Plan

(AKA Triggers for reverting to Statewide Orders or Stricter if indicated)

- Data is monitored daily for our region on [covid19.colorado.gov](https://covid19.colorado.gov). Specific local data for our county and trends is received from regional epidemiologist at minimum once weekly. Update calls are held at least weekly with our hospital, City of Lamar and the County Commissioners as well as intermittent other communications as needed to improve situational awareness.
- Assist LTC facilities with PPE acquisition and support them in their lock down status. Willing to come investigate and do testing if the state does not get out to our area to test all residents and employees, provided we could get testing materials.
- PPE cache maintained to support our medical facilities and LTC, coroner, etc should there be a shipping delay in acquisition of PPE or a surge increases the burn rate in any of these facilities.
- If >10 new cases in a week (unless 1 family or similar,) more than 2-3 cases hospitalized COVID-19 patients, inability to transfer patients to higher acuity facilities, or significant decrease in hospital staff due to employee positives, inability to obtain appropriate PPE to protect hospital workers, or the general public grossly ignoring orders, holding mass gatherings with more people than approved despite guidance to the contrary, are all triggers for reversion to the State orders or stricter.
- We activated our DOC in a trial run at the beginning of the pandemic before we had a positive. We are able to scale up our contact tracing should several cases occur at once.

Requested Variance Categories  
(Otherwise current Safer at Home orders apply)

1. Restaurants, Bars that serve food

Restaurants are still encouraged to continue business via take-out, drive-thru, delivery and curbside pick-up. In-house and patio/outdoor dining resumption is voluntary and in no way required. Should they choose to expand to in-house dining and patio service they must adhere to the following:

- Limit capacity to 30% of fire/building code capacity indoors, can go to 50% if using outdoor space.
- If expanding outdoor dining from usual capacity, usual food safety and same social distancing guidelines apply. If the restaurant has a liquor license and expands outdoor dining perimeter all liquor board requirements must be met such as applying for expansion of perimeter.
- Dining must be by reservation only. Patrons must wait in their cars until text or phone call notification that their table is ready. Congregating in waiting areas is not permitted. Contact information for at least one member of the party to include first and last name, phone number and/or email to assist in contact tracing, should an outbreak occur.
- Signage posted with face covering notice, social distancing, and proper hygiene should be displayed at the door and throughout the restaurant.
- Signage with signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and Stay home if sick notices must be posted at the door.
- Ask customers if they have symptoms upon entry. If anyone is ill or expresses symptoms, they are not permitted to enter.
- Face coverings must be worn until the patron is seated at their reserved table.
- Maximum party size is 6, preferably from the same family or household.
- Tables must be 8 feet apart. This can be accomplished by cordoning off tables or removing tables not in use.
- Buffets will be served by employee only, no self-service. This includes any self-service station, such as drink station, salad bar.
- Condiments should be single serve. If not possible, must be sanitized before and after each party.
- Menu boards or single-use paper menus should be used. If not possible, must sanitize menus before and after each use.
- Staff who has direct interaction with customers are required to wear face-coverings that cover nose and mouth. All staff will monitor for COVID-19 symptoms. If symptomatic they cannot be permitted to work. Those without direct customer interaction should wear a mask when feasible, especially if social distancing is difficult to maintain (such as in a kitchen).
- Tables and chairs are to be sanitized between parties. Bathrooms and high touch areas should be cleaned frequently.
- Encourage touchless payment whenever possible.

## 2. Places of Worship

Places of worship are encouraged to continue online, streaming, or drive-up services as much as possible. Consider separate services for the most vulnerable (over the age of 65, those with chronic conditions). Encourage them to stay home and do personal visits, online contact if at all possible. If they choose, in person services can resume per the following:

- Limit capacity to 50 congregants or fewer. Social distancing of 6 feet must be maintained between families. This can be achieved by reserved seating and blocking seats in between families.
- Keep track of those in attendance at each service to assist in contact tracing should an outbreak occur. Information to be recorded includes the name of at least one in each family, date and time of service, first and last name, number in party, phone number and/or email. This should be done by one volunteer or employee and social distancing should be maintained as much as possible.
- Encourage face coverings and post signage encouraging face coverings, proper hygiene and social distancing. Post signage about the signs and symptoms of COVID-19. People must not enter if they have any symptoms of COVID-19.
- Implement touchless offering and communion options as much as possible.
- Congregating before or after services in waiting areas, entry, is not permitted. No meals are to be served.
- Perform cleaning of all high touch surfaces and bathrooms between services
- Staff/employees are to wear face coverings that cover nose and mouth, especially those singing or speaking during the service.
- Staff/employees must be screened for symptoms of COVID-19 and be excluded if any symptoms are present.

## 3. Recreation and Golf Courses

- Golf courses, trails, parks and tennis courts that enable social distancing, may remain open.
- League/pick up sports that do not allow for social distancing are prohibited.
- Outdoor recreation and exercise classes may resume as long as 15 feet is maintained between participant family groups and no more than 20 participants. Face coverings should be encouraged.
- Golfers:
  - Must maintain social distancing
  - No shared clubs, balls. Remove flags and other high touch equipment
  - Licensed restaurants may be open as long as they can adhere to the restaurant guidance
  - Tee times must be reserved and touchless payments should occur.
  - Pro-shops may be open as long as general business guidelines can be followed.
  - Only one person per golf cart unless from the same household
  - Employees must be screened for symptoms of COVID-19 and excluded from work should they be symptomatic.

- Employees with direct contact with golfers must wear face coverings over nose and mouth.
- Perform frequent cleaning and sanitization of high touch surfaces and bathrooms.

#### 4. Libraries

Libraries should provide online services and promote curbside pick-up and delivery options. Continued use of book drop off slots and self-checkout is encouraged. If a library chooses to open to patrons the following guidelines apply:

- Computer stations must be used by reservation only and be spaced 6 feet apart. Cleaning must occur between uses.
- Space reading and study areas 6 feet apart
- No more than 10 patrons can be in the library at any one time.
- Signs must be posted with the signs of COVID-19 and anyone with these symptoms is prohibited from entering.
- Hand sanitizer should be available at the entrance.
- If a story time is held, families must attend by reservation only, social distance, maximum 10 attendees. If 10 people attend the remainder of the library will be closed as 10 total patrons is the maximum allowed.
- A record of patrons, to include at least one member from a family group, should include: the date, first and last name, phone number and/or email
- High touch surfaces and bathrooms should be cleaned frequently.
- Employees with direct customer contact must wear a face covering over nose and mouth.
- Employees/staff/volunteers should be screened for symptoms of COVID-19. If any symptoms present they must not enter

#### 5. Movie theaters

Movie theaters can continue curbside pick-up and carry out concession sales. They may choose to reopen with the following guidelines:

- Reservations should be encouraged.
- Social distancing of 6 feet should be maintained in line for ticket purchase and concessions.
- No congregating permitted in waiting areas, lobby
- Maximum 20 customers in auditorium with family groups separated at minimum every other row as long as social distancing can be maintained.
- Signage will be posted with signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and customers showing symptoms will be denied entry.
- Signage will be posted promoting social distancing and proper hygiene.
- All seating in theater wiped down and floors cleaned between showings.
- All employees with direct customer contact will wear face covering over nose and mouth.

- Employees will be screened for signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and will be excluded from work if symptoms present.
- Touchless payment should occur whenever possible.

#### 6. Bowling alley

Bowling alley (we have 1 in the county) may reopen with the following guidelines:

- Bowling will occur by reservation only and a maximum of 20 bowlers may be present at any one time.
- Parties will remain in their vehicle and be notified via phone or text when their lane is ready.
- Bowlers will be separated into family groups with at least 1 lanes of separation to maintain social distancing.
- People should be notified via phone or text when their lane is ready to prevent congregating in entry ways.
- Touchless payment should occur whenever possible.
- Hand sanitizer should be available upon entry.
- Seating, ball return, and scoring area will be sanitized between uses.
- Rental balls and shoes will be sanitized between uses.
- Signage must be posted with signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and those with symptoms must not enter.
- Signage promoting social distancing and proper hygiene must be posted.
- Employees with direct customer contact must wear a face covering over nose and mouth.
- Employees must be screened for signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and be excluded from work if any symptoms are present.