

SAN JUAN COUNTY CO COVID-19 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

JUNE 28, 2020

What is the new public health order?

Order #2020-04 was issued by San Juan County Public Health after approval by Board of Health/County Commissioners pursuant to the declaration of disaster and declaration of pandemic on March 25, 2020. The Order is legally binding through San Juan County and the State of Colorado as cited by the Colorado Revised Statutes.

The County Public Health Order is complementary to the current State of Colorado Public Health Order and the Governor's Executive Orders. The most up to date orders can be found at the State of Colorado [Public health & executive orders](#) COVID-19 website.

San Juan County Local Public Health Orders and Disaster Declarations are posted on the County Website at [COVID-19 Local Info | San Juan County](#)

Why Now?

The team has been concerned about outbreaks occurring where many San Juan County visitors come from (Texas, Arizona and Utah). We have also seen a steady increase in asymptomatic transmission in La Plata County among younger persons, ages ranging from 20-30 years old.

The IMT (Incident Management Team) wanted to make it clear and unambiguous that 1) face coverings, 2) social distancing, 3) hand washing, 4) staying home when sick and 5) getting tested are the tools needed to reduce the transmission of COVID-19.

It is important for the public to realize that the IMT evaluates and adapts to information about the pandemic. The IMT looks ahead every 2 weeks and adjusts our decisions accordingly.

The Public Health Department is being proactive with this Public Health Order by emphasizing the importance of risk reduction using the 5 steps to containment.

Who is required to wear a face covering?

Everyone is required to wear a face covering when in public where 6 feet of distance can not be maintained. Exceptions exist for persons 3 years of age or younger or those who are unable due to an existing health issue or impairment.

Where am I required to wear a face covering?

Any publicly accessible place, either indoor or outdoor where you are unable to maintain six feet or more in separation from others who are not residents of the same household. This includes Town and County owned or operated facilities, businesses where sales or services are being provided, on public transportation, and in any other public space such as parks, open space or elsewhere within the County where social distancing can not be observed. Research has clearly shown that face coverings are critical tools for reducing an individual's risk of exposure to COVID-19.

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How will the Order be enforced?

The County will attempt to seek voluntary compliance through a 3 step process: 1. Education. 2. Warning notice and continued education and 3. Citation. Enforcement is done by the County Sheriff's Department and the Town Code Enforcement.

Failing to comply with this Order is subject to the penalties contained in Section 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. The County may additionally pursue any other legal remedy to secure enforcement.

When will the County Public Health Order expire?

This Order will remain in effect until 11:59 p.m. September 30th, 2020, unless extended, rescinded, superseded, or amended in writing.

Are we still following the State's Public Health Order?

Yes. The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) and the Governor's Executive Orders are the baseline and to be followed. Counties can issue more strict orders which are followed with the Executive order. Whichever is more stringent supersedes the other.

The Incident Management Team is using the [Colorado COVID-19 Updates: Home](#) for reference which lists the most current Executive Orders and Public Health Orders. Information is changing on a daily basis but the State of Colorado is maintaining the website as a definitive source of information during the pandemic.

If employees at a local business are not wearing face coverings, how can a violation be reported?

Please email covid19@sanjuancolorado.us

I own or manage a business and am still not clear on requirements for businesses to be able to open and operate under the Governor's and local health orders. Where can I find information about that?

If you are a restaurant, you can find additional guidance through your Retail Food Establishment inspection process, via [San Juan Basin Public Health](#). SJCPH can also assist in the process.

If you are a business not serving retail food, call or email covid19@sanjuancolorado.us for a checklist.

Can a business refuse service to someone not wearing a face covering?

Yes, however, reasonable efforts to promote compliance among customers should first be made. If someone becomes disruptive, or if there is fear for the safety of staff and others, please call the police at 911 in case of emergency or 970-387-5531 if it is a non-emergency.

As a business owner or manager, where can I find standard signage to post in my business about this order?

Please email pio@sanjuancounty.us for signage attachments that you can print out

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My antibody test said I already had COVID-19. Aren't I immune?

NO. Antibody testing is useful only in understanding if the disease has spread through the community in the past. Based on the current scientific consensus, immunity has not been established yet for the novel coronavirus.

If you tested positive for the antibodies we suggest you consult a physician for a check up. The IMT uses viral testing for decision making. Viral testing indicates if there is an active viral load in the human body.

Where can I find more information about the County services during the pandemic?

Please visit [COVID-19 Local Info | San Juan County](#) for official updates. Do not listen to rumors.

Make sure to stay up to date via email by signing up for email alerts at pio@sanjuancolorado.us

The San Juan County website stays up to date: [COVID-19 Local Info | San Juan County](#)

For emergency information follow the Office of Emergency Management Facebook Page [Office of Emergency Management, San Juan County Colorado](#)

For Public Health follow the Facebook Page [San Juan County Public Health](#)

For Emergency Alerts sign up for Nixle by texting "81433" to 888-777

I don't see my question answered?

Contact us! 970 387-0242 or email covid19@sanjuancolorado.us or pio@sanjuancolorado.us