

July 24, 2020

SAN JUAN COUNTY, COLORADO  
SAN JUAN COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT  
PO Box 619, Silverton, CO 81433

**PUBLIC HEALTH ORDER NO. 2020-05  
REGARDING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

**1. Purpose, Effective Area.** This Order is being issued by the San Juan County Public Health Director to limit the health impacts of COVID-19. This Order sets forth requirements and guidelines for personal responsibility and additional mandates to slow the spread of COVID-19. This Order is effective within the entirety of San Juan County, including Silverton. This Order shall rescind and replace all prior San Juan County Public Health Orders regarding the COVID-19 Pandemic.

**2. Findings and Intent.** The Public Health Director finds that according to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE), as of July 23th, 2020, there are 42,314 known cases of COVID-19 in Colorado and 1,645 Coloradans have died from COVID-19. There is clear evidence that some individuals who contract COVID-19 have no symptoms or have very mild symptoms, which means they are likely unaware they carry the virus. Asymptomatic individuals can transmit the disease, and evidence shows the disease is easily spread, so gatherings of people facilitate transmission of COVID-19.

The Public Health Director further finds that the presence of visitors to San Juan County from many communities throughout the state and the country, if unregulated, may introduce increased illness into the community, imposing burdens on the local economy, local workers, our health care system, public services, first responders, food supplies and other essential services during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

The Public Health Director determines that, in the absence of a widely available vaccine and/or treatment, community mitigation tools, such as physical distancing, face coverings, hand washing, self quarantining and isolating if sick and reporting symptoms to public health officials, are necessary to reduce the spread of COVID-19 to protect health and save lives.

On March 25, 2020 the Board of County Commissioners and the Board of Health signed a Disaster Declaration and a Declaration of Local Epidemic.

**3. Effective Date and Time, Limitations.** This Order will become effective at 6:00 p.m. on July 24th 2020, and will remain in effect until 11:59 p.m. September 30th, 2020, unless extended, rescinded, superseded, or amended in writing.

**4. Legal Authority.** This Order is adopted pursuant to the legal authority set forth in sections 25-1-506 and 25-1-508, 25-1-509, Colorado Revised Statutes, as well as all other applicable laws, rules, regulations, orders and declarations. Under this authority, the Public Health Director has the duty to investigate and control the causes of the epidemic or communicable diseases and

conditions affecting public health; to establish, maintain, and enforce isolation and quarantine; to exercise physical control over the property and over the persons of the people within the territorial limits of San Juan County; and to prohibit the gatherings of people to protect the public health; all as the Public Health Director may find necessary for the protection of the public health. Issuance of this Order is deemed reasonable under the existing circumstances and necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health, safety and welfare.

**5. Most Restrictive Standard Controls.** The requirements of this Order shall be in addition to any and all local, State and/or Federal orders. In the event that any such other orders or laws are more or less restrictive than what is set forth herein, the more restrictive orders control. Individuals should be aware that Executive Orders from Governor Polis and State Public Health Orders from the Director of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) are being issued on a regular basis, and all members of the public are responsible for following the Governor's orders, CDPHE orders, and local orders.

**6. Face Coverings.**

A. All persons shall be required to wear a Face Covering when entering, waiting in line to enter and while in the following locations within San Juan County:

- i. Any place of business engaged in any sales or other transactions of any kind to the general public and any place that offers services, facilities, privileges, or advantages to the general public, including any outside courtyard, patio, seating, waiting or parking area associated with the place of business or place of service in which any kind of delivery, pick up or other service is provided;
- ii. Any County owned or operated building or indoor facility of any kind;
- iii. Any mass transportation; and
- iv. Any other public place whether indoor or outdoor where persons are unable to maintain safe social distancing (six or more feet separation) from others who are not residents of their own household.

B. As used in this Order, "Face Covering" shall mean 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, and that fits snugly but comfortably against the side of the face and remains in place without the use of one's hands. Face coverings include, but are not limited to, bandanas, medical masks, cloth masks, buffs and gaiters. Face coverings do not include any mask that incorporates a one-way valve that is designed to facilitate easy exhaling, and such masks are not to be used to comply with this Order.

C. Exceptions. Nothing herein shall require the wearing of face coverings by the following persons under this Order:

- i. Persons in restaurants or other food establishments which are permitted by state and local regulations to serve food for consumption on the premises, while such person is in the act of eating or drinking; provided, however, that face coverings must be worn while entering and exiting the restaurant, and while ordering, paying, or otherwise interacting with employees or other customers of the restaurant, and once the food and drink have been consumed;
- ii. Persons working in a place of business who do not come into contact with the public and who do not share workspace with other persons not of their household; provided, however, that face coverings shall be worn while entering or exiting the building or otherwise when within six feet of another person in or around that place of business and as may otherwise be required under any other orders or directives issued by any entity with jurisdiction;
- iii. Persons 10 years of age or younger or children within a childcare or 10 years of age or younger in a K-12 educational facility;
- iv. Persons for whom a face covering would cause impairment due to an existing health condition or persons who, because of a disability, are unable to wear a face covering. However, reasonable accommodations or alternatives may be required of any such persons on a case by case basis.
- v. Persons in a place of business such as banks, financial institutions or other security sensitive businesses who are requested to remove or lower their face covering for purposes of verifying their identity to carry out a sale or transaction; provided, however, that face coverings must otherwise be worn while in the establishment.

D. General Information for all Persons regarding face coverings. Pursuant to Federal Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidance, the public is strongly encouraged to wear cloth Face Coverings that: Fit snugly but comfortably against the side of the face; Are secured with ties or ear loops; Include multiple layers of fabric; Allow for breathing without restriction; And are able to be laundered and machine dried without damage or change to shape. Information on making such face coverings can be found at: CDC.gov [How to Make Cloth Face Coverings to Help Slow Spread](https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2020/s1105-how-to-make-cloth-face-coverings.html).

**7. Five Commitments of Containment.** Preventing an outbreak of COVID-19 in San Juan County requires all individuals and businesses to comply with the mandatory provisions of this Order. In addition, all persons in San Juan County are strongly encouraged to assume additional personal responsibility and adopt the Five Commitments of Containment to minimize transmission of COVID-19.

These are:

**- I will maintain 6 feet of physical distance from other individuals.**

-Physical distance is one of the most effective COVID-19 prevention measures.

-I will keep this distance from any person who is not from my household.

**- I will wash my hands frequently and thoroughly for at least 20 seconds.**

-Hand washing is especially important after visiting public settings and businesses and before eating or touching my face.

**- I will cover my face in public.**

-I will wear a face covering whenever I am outside and may not be able to maintain 6 feet of physical distance from others.

-I will wear a face covering whenever I am in indoor areas open to the public.

-Face coverings are not a substitute for maintaining physical distance.

**- I will stay home when I am sick.**

-Isolating myself from others, including household members, will help protect others and limit the spread.

**- I will get tested immediately if I have COVID-19 symptoms.**

-Testing early after COVID-19 symptoms develop can provide valuable information to help prevent spreading COVID-19 to other people and to inform public health officials about the extent of disease spread in the community.

**8. Required Signage.** All places of business or other public accommodation subject to this Order shall display at each entrance a sign advising all persons of the requirements of this Order, and that face coverings are required to enter or remain within the establishment.

**9. Enforcement.** The County will attempt to seek voluntary compliance through education and warning notices prior to the issuance of any citations or commencement of legal action. Anyone 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.

Becky Joyce, Director of Public Health San Juan County, Colorado

Signed: B. Joyce RN

Date: July 24, 2020