

April 18, 2020

The Honorable Jared Polis,
The Governor of Colorado
200 East Colfax Avenue
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Governor Polis,

The Colorado Association of Local Public Health Officials represents every public health agency on the frontlines of the COVID-19 response, serving every county and every person in the state of Colorado.

We are writing to present an evidence-based, data-driven, best practice public health approach to relaxing stay-at-home orders and other limitations on commerce and social activity. This framework was developed using a number of reference documents including 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](#).

First let us say that throughout all of this, we believe that continued use of face-coverings is critical to any phase of reopening prior to the availability of pharmaceutical interventions (vaccines). Page one of this framework lays out the specific indicators that, if completely met, could lead communities to consider degrees of re-opening. Page two describes the approach to reopening and identifies the crucial triggers and conditions to be met as communities evaluate critical businesses readiness to phase in reopening. We believe that by using this checklist format and referencing familiar iconography and the metaphor of Colorado's ski industry the basic message is clear.

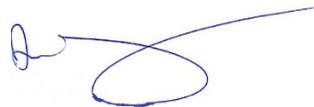
While additional guidance and detail will need to be created and agreed upon for some of the protocols, you can see that this approach can address the immediate need of getting a plan in place to begin relaxing the stay-at-home orders, while giving public health the opportunity to research and develop guidance that is meaningful, widely applicable across all counties and remains protective of the public's health.

We appreciate this opportunity to present to you this model that represents the power of public health's thought partnership and collaboration. Please do not hesitate to contact us with additional questions.

Yours in health,



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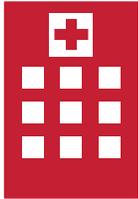
Colorado Roadmap - The New Normal

Indicators that must be met to move into the Stabilization Phase



1. A sustained decrease in cases for at least 14 days

- Measured by new cases per day, self-reports (where applicable), and positivity rates
- Proxy measurement - new cases among healthcare workers
- Proxy measurement - outbreaks and/or new cases within skilled nursing facilities
- Proxy measurement - hospital admission for COVID-19



2. Hospitals are safely able to treat patients without resorting to crisis standards of care

- Hospital census - regional census may be helpful
- Access to regional alternative care center or regional plans are in place
- Hospitalizations are stable or decreasing



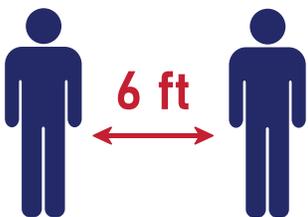
3. Testing can be performed for all people with symptoms consistent with COVID-19 infection

- Working towards testing capacity that is routinely accessible to every person who is symptomatic within 24 hours and results can be returned within 12-24 hours of specimen collection.



4. Active monitoring can be accomplished for all COVID-19 cases and their contacts

- Isolation orders can be delivered within 6 hours of case report
- Active monitoring and isolation must be in place
- Capacity improved and maintained at state and local level with roles delineated
- Enforcement capacity and process is clear in every jurisdiction



5. Clear protocol in place that requires social distancing and assists with case identification

- Older adults (age 60 and older) and individuals with underlying medical conditions that are at increased risk of serious COVID-19 are encouraged not to attend (including employees) or to tele-work where possible.
- Employees must be screened for COVID-19 symptoms each day. Anyone symptomatic will be excluded from work for at least 7 days, will be tested within 48 hours, and will have face coverings provided for all household members.
- Social distancing measures must be employed to ensure that employees and the public can easily maintain a minimum of 6 foot distance.
- Social distancing protocol is provided to all employees and available to any customer
- Enforcement capacity and process is clear in every jurisdiction

Getting to the Recovery Phase will require that vaccine is widely available

Approach for the Stabilization Phase - The New Normal

 Actions	 Green Circle Initial reopening Meet the 1-5 Criteria	 Blue Square 4-8 weeks after initial reopening No significant increase in cases Criteria 1-5 met & maintained	 Black Diamond 8-16 weeks after initial reopen No significant increase in cases Criteria 1-5 met & maintained
Hand Hygiene	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Cough/sneeze etiquette	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Minimum of 6 feet distance between individuals	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Protect most susceptible individuals	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Symptom screening	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Report and test	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Face covering in public if minimum 6 feet distance can't be kept	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Face covering for sick individuals	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Isolate	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Case contact active monitoring and face covering	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Phased Reopening			
Critical Business	Operate with social distancing protocol and exempted from gathering size		
Gathering Size increased	10	25-50	250
High risk businesses	Re-open with guidance	Continue with guidance	Continue with guidance
Medium risk businesses	Re-open with guidance	Continue with guidance	Continue with guidance
Low risk businesses	Re-open with guidance	Continue with guidance	Continue with guidance
Special Events	No	With social distance protocol	With social distance protocol
Restaurants	Delivery and take out only	With social distance protocol	With social distance protocol
Bars	No	With social distance protocol	With social distance protocol
K-12	No	Re-open with guidance	Continue with guidance
Child care	Open with guidance	Continue with guidance	Continue with guidance
Summer Camps	No	Re-open with Guidance	Continue with guidance
Recreation and sports	Reopen with restrictions	Expand by gathering size	No Limit
Incoming Travel	Strictly limited	Limited	Open

Closure Criteria

Action	Tighten immediately (if not already on)	Maximum tightening
Wash hands often	Already on	Continue
Cover coughs	Already on	Yes
Don't go out if sick	Already on	Yes
Face mask if sick to go out	Already on	Yes
Face mask for all in community	No	Consider
Surface and object cleaning	Already on	Yes
Increase ventilation	Already on	Yes
Quarantine of contacts of cases	Already on	Yes
Physical distancing to 6 feet when possible – avoid crowding	Turn on	Yes
Stop visits to nursing homes, hospitals, congregate facilities	Already on	Yes
Ban all gatherings including religious (above 10, 50 people)	Yes for 50 or more*	Yes, all non-household
Restaurant closures	Open – only delivery/to go	Open - only delivery/ to go
Bar closures	Open – only delivery/to go	Turn on
Special situation business closures**	Partial closure*	Yes, all
General business closures (non-essential)	Turn on	Yes
University closures	Yes (Online encouraged)	Yes (Online encouraged)
K-12 closures	Yes (Online encouraged)	Yes (Online encouraged)
Day care closures	Yes	Yes
Quarantine of travelers from high-prevalence areas	Yes, voluntary	Yes, mandatory

*People over age 60 and those who are medically vulnerable , including employees, continue to shelter in place, including employees.

**Special business situations include strategically important entities (e.g., infrastructure), entities which can reopen while ensuring safe commute, physical distancing, exclusion of anyone ill, and mandatory handwashing/sanitizing at entry and periodically during day.