



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

State Public Health Department Updates Public Health Order on Physical Distancing to 10 or Fewer People

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS, CO – March 22, 2020 —The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) amended its statewide public health order on social or physical distancing. The public health order limits gatherings to 10 or fewer people.

The purpose of the order is to limit the spread of COVID-19. COVID-19 is a respiratory illness that spreads through person-to-person contact, or (less likely) by contact with surfaces contaminated with the virus. People infected with COVID-19 may become symptomatic anywhere from two to 14 days after exposure. Limiting the number of people gathered in one area limits the spread of disease, reduces the number of people who become severely ill and protects our health care system.

The Public Health order applies to all public and private gatherings except for those specifically exempted by the Public Health Order.

The order was amended to further clarify exemptions. Now the exemptions include:

- The Colorado General Assembly, legislative bodies of municipal governments, and Colorado state and municipal courts.
- Airports, bus, and train stations, health care facilities, and grocery or retail stores, pharmacies, or other spaces where 10 or more people may be moving around to get essential goods and services.
- Delivery and take-out food services in accordance with [Public Health Order 20-22](#).
- Offices and state, county, and municipal government buildings where **essential government services are offered**.
- Factories where more than 10 people are present but social distancing measures of maintaining at least 6 feet between individuals is standard.
- Newspaper, television, radio, and other media services.
- Childcare facilities, except for public preschools operated on public school campuses, which are addressed in Executive [Order D 2020 007](#).
- Homeless shelters.
- Any emergency facility needed to respond to COVID-19 in Colorado.

In order to provide more information to the public Routt County has set up a separate webpage covid19routtcounty.com and has set up a call line to answer community questions at 970-871-8444. Community residents can also follow Routt County and Routt County Emergency Management on Facebook, as well as subscribing for press releases on Routt County's website at <http://www.co.routt.co.us/list.aspx> and sign up for County News.

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