May 19, 2020

STANDING PUBLIC HEALTH ORDER

ALTERNATIVE RESTRICTIONS TO SAFER AT HOME EXECUTIVE
AND PUBLIC HEALTH ORDERS

This Order is to be read in conjunction with Governor Polis’ Executive Order D 2020 044 and CDPHE Order 20-28 (hereafter “State Orders”) and sets forth a protocol to begin lifting restrictions to previous public health orders, while providing alternative restrictions related to four specific functions, including Restaurants, Places of Worship, Gyms, and RV Parks.

Pursuant to §25-1-506(2)(a)(I) C.R.S., this order is effective as of May 19, 2020 within the entirety of Rio Grande County, including all towns within the County until expiration of the Safer at Home executive and public health orders.

This order is adopted pursuant to the legal authority set forth in §25-1-506 and §25-1-508, C.R.S. Under these laws a county board of health has the authority to issue orders and adopt rules not inconsistent with the laws of the State of Colorado as the county board of health deems necessary for the protection of the public health. All persons in Rio Grande County, including all towns, shall follow the requirements stated herein.

I. PURPOSE AND INTENT

On May 6, 2020, the Board of County Commissioners for Rio Grande County requested variances from the State Orders relating to four specific functions: Restaurants, Places of Worship, Gyms, and RV Parks. On May 16, 2020, the Executive Director of CDPHE granted Rio Grande County’s variance request, with additional requirements, and subject to the right of CDPHE to rescind or modify the variance approval as conditions warrant.

This order is intended to be less restrictive than the existing State Orders and to the extent that the State Orders are rescinded, relaxed, or otherwise modified, the least restrictive applicable order(s) shall prevail.

Preventing a resurgence will require that all individuals and business be responsible for adhering to the requirements of this Order. Should a resurgence appear likely based on a failure to adhere to this Order, restrictions on activities may be reinstated.
II. ALTERNATIVE RESTRICTIONS

A. RESTAURANTS: Restaurants may resume dine-in service subject to the following restrictions:

1. Restaurants must limit the number of dine-in customers to 30% of total restaurant seating capacity.

2. Restaurants shall post signage on doors instructing guests experiencing COVID-like symptoms not to enter.

3. Customers must wear face coverings when entering the restaurant until seated at their tables.

4. Customers must be asked prior to entering a restaurant whether they have any symptoms of COVID-19, and any customers reporting symptoms must be excluded.

5. Restaurants are encouraged to make accommodations for high-risk individuals (e.g., early opening, “senior hours”).

6. Group parties shall be limited to six persons, ideally members of the same household.

7. Bars shall remain closed, including those that are part of restaurants, except for preparing drinks for dine-in parties or takeout orders.

8. Restaurants shall place markings on the floor to maintain at least six feet of distance between customers in customer lines.

9. In-room dining shall follow strict physical distancing (6ft).

10. Customers should be encouraged make reservations online or by phone.

11. Restaurants shall make every effort to notify customers via text or phone call when their table is ready so no waiting in a lobby is necessary.

12. Self-serving stations shall remain closed (drinking stations, bulk dry, etc.)

13. Restaurants shall not allow public sharing of utensils or condiments.

14. Buffets shall have an employee serving the food, no self-serving allowed.
15. Restaurant employees and contracted workers shall monitor daily for symptoms using CDC symptom guidance.

16. Employees who are symptomatic must be excluded from the workplace and be required to isolate until they are fever free for 72 hours AND other symptoms have improved AND at least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared, per CDC guidance.

17. Employees and contracted workers must wear face coverings that cover the nose and mouth at all times.

18. Restaurants are encouraged to implement or maintain physical barriers for high-contact settings (e.g. cashiers) when possible.

19. Restaurants are encouraged to implement touchless payment methods, when possible.

20. Restaurants shall stagger shifts, if feasible, to decrease employee numbers at the business.

21. Restaurants shall limit reusable items (i.e., menus, condiments).

22. Restaurants, if possible, are encouraged to provide hand sanitizer at the table or in highly-used locations.

23. Restaurants shall ensure frequent cleaning and disinfecting of all surfaces and high-touch items/areas.

24. Employers must provide accommodations to vulnerable employees who are required to follow Stay at Home requirements.

B. PLACES OF WORSHIP: Places of worship may resume in-person services subject to the following restrictions:

1. Places of worship shall limit the number of participants to 30% of seating capacity AND spread people out so that there is at least six feet distance between individuals or families throughout.

2. Places of worship shall post signage on doors telling participants experiencing COVID-like symptoms not to enter.
3. Participants should be encouraged to wear a face covering both when entering and while present in the house of worship.

4. Participants must be asked whether they have COVID-19 symptoms at the door and excluded from the place of worship if symptomatic.

5. Places of worship are encouraged to make accommodations for high-risk individuals (e.g. online viewing).

6. Places of Worship must place markings on floors to maintain at least six feet distance where lines form.

7. Places of Worship are encouraged to implement touchless offering and communion options as much as possible.

8. Places of worship shall monitor employees and volunteers to monitor daily for symptoms, using CDC symptom guidance.

9. Staff and volunteers shall be monitored daily for symptoms using CDC symptom guidance.

10. Staff and volunteers who are symptomatic must be excluded from the place of worship and be required to isolate until they are fever free for 72 hours AND other symptoms have improved AND at least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared, per CDC guidance.

11. Staff and volunteers shall wear face coverings that cover the nose and mouth at all times.

12. Places of worship shall perform frequent cleaning and disinfection of bathrooms and high-touch surfaces.

13. Employers must provide accommodations to vulnerable employees who are required to follow Stay at Home requirements.

C. GYMS: Gyms may reopen to the public subject to the following restrictions:

1. Gyms shall limit the number of clients in attendance to 30% of capacity.

2. Customers must be asked whether they have COVID-19 symptoms at the door and excluded from the fitness center if symptomatic.
3. Gyms shall post signs at entrances encouraging the public to wear cloth face coverings in order to enter the business and while in the facility, unless a face covering inhibits the participants’ ability to participate in the fitness activity.

4. Gyms are encouraged to consider accommodations for high-risk individuals (e.g. early opening, “senior hours”).

5. Gyms shall spread people out so there is at least six feet distance between individuals throughout.

6. Use of equipment in a fitness center shall be limited to no closer than every other machine so that participants are not exercising right next to each other.

7. Use of small exercise rooms with poor ventilation is discouraged.

8. Gyms shall perform frequent environmental cleaning and disinfection of bathrooms and high-touch surfaces and between customer uses.

9. Gyms shall require customers to disinfect equipment after every use.

10. Gyms shall require employees and contracted workers to monitor daily for symptoms, using CDC symptom guidance.

11. Employees and contract workers who are symptomatic must be excluded from the gym and be required to isolate until they are fever free for 72 hours AND other symptoms have improved AND at least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared, per CDC guidance.

12. Employees and contracted workers must wear face coverings that cover the nose and mouth at all times.

13. Employers must provide accommodations to vulnerable employees who are required to follow Stay at Home requirements.

14. Group classes are not allowed.

15. Sport courts shall remain closed.

16. Locker rooms shall remain closed.

17. Saunas, pools (indoor and outdoor) and shared spaces shall remain closed.

18. Food/drink bars shall remain closed.
D. RV PARKS: RV parks may resume operations subject to the following restrictions:

1. RV parks shall impose restrictions on group gatherings and gatherings in common areas.

2. RV parks shall limit the number of people gathering to 30% capacity and spread people out so that there is at least six feet distance between individuals or families throughout.

3. RV parks shall post signage at entrances informing guests that if they are experiencing COVID-like symptoms they shall not enter.

4. Guests should be encouraged to wear a face covering.

5. Guests should be asked whether they have COVID-like symptoms at the door and excluded from entering if symptomatic.

6. RV parks shall place markings on floors to maintain at least six feet distance where lines form.

7. RV parks shall require employees and contracted workers to monitor daily for symptoms, using CDC symptom guidance.

8. Employees and contract workers who are symptomatic must be excluded from the RV Park and be required to isolate until they are fever free for 72 hours AND other symptoms have improved AND at least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared, per CDC guidance.

9. Employees and contracted workers must wear face coverings that cover the nose and mouth at all times.

10. Employers must provide accommodations to vulnerable employees who are required to follow Stay at Home requirements.

11. RV parks shall perform frequent cleaning and disinfection of bathrooms and high-touch surfaces.

12. Shower facilities, if applicable, must be cleaned after each use.

13. Retail and food service on the RV park premises must follow all state and local laws, public health orders, as well as applicable industry guidelines.
III. GENERAL INFORMATION FOR ALL PERSONS AFFECTED BY THIS ORDER

The Rio Grande County Public Health Agency is tasked with protecting the health and welfare of the Citizens of Rio Grande County, Colorado by investigating and controlling the causes of epidemic and communicable disease. This order is necessary to control any potential transmission of disease to others. See §25-1-508, C.R.S. Immediate issuance of this Order is necessary for the preservation of public health, safety, or welfare.

Any person aggrieved and affected by this Order has the right to request judicial review by filing an action with the Rio Grande County District Court within 90 days of the date of this order, pursuant to §25-1-515, C.R.S. However, you must continue to obey the terms of this Order while your request for review is pending.

Failure to comply with this order is subject to the penalties contained in §25-1-516 and §18-1.3-501, C.R.S. Rio Grande County Public Health Agency also reserves the right to seek any other remedies available by law.

ATTEST:

Clerk of the Board

BY THE BOARD OF HEALTH
RIO GRANDE COUNTY, COLORADO

John Noffsiker, Chairman

Suzanne Bothell, Member

Gene Glover, Member