

APRIL 15, 2021

STANDING PUBLIC HEALTH ORDER

RELATED TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC BEST PRACTICE AND ACTIVITY SPECIFIC PROTECTIVE MEASURES FOR SAFE OPERATION OF CERTAIN BUSINESSES, ACTIVITIES, AND EVENTS, AS PERIODICALLY UPDATED IN GRAND COUNTY'S COVID-19 SUPPRESSION PLAN AND PLAYBOOKS

GRAND COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH DIRECTOR

APRIL 15, 2021

Please note that due to the constantly changing course of the COVID-19 pandemic and local health, economic, social, and resource factors, local, state and federal public health guidance and compliance documents should be consulted regularly as they will necessarily be changing over time. For the public's ease of reference, the most efficient means of consulting the most recent Protective Measures is to visit www.co.grand.co.us/covid19.

PURPOSE

This Public Health Order:

1. Terminates and replaces the June 26, 2020 Standing Public Health Order and its subsequent amendments with this April 15, 2021 Standing Public Health Order.
2. Updates both the Grand County COVID-19 Suppression Plan and Playbooks and the Grand County Quick Reference Capacity Chart in light of recent statewide changes in COVID-19 management and suppression.
3. Reemphasizes **COVID Commitments to Containment, Activity Specific Protective Measures**, and current **Capacity Limits** for various Grand County industries, businesses, recreation, events and other activities
4. Continues the requirement to submit a [Compliance Verification Form](#) through Grand County Public Health for each activity subject to Activity Specific Protection Measures and display approved acceptance documentation prior to opening and receiving customers, or commencing an event or other activity.

ORDER

1. Terminate and replace the June 26, 2020 Standing Public Health Order and its subsequent amendments with this April 15, 2021 Standing Public Health Order.
2. **All persons in Grand County (whether residents, business owners, or visitors) shall implement the following COVID COMMITMENTS TO CONTAINMENT:**
 - a. Wear a mask in public places (advised for ages 3+ but required for ages 11+).
 - b. Practice social distancing of 6' or more between non-household/non-cohort members.
 - c. Limit group sizes and minimize congregation, especially when indoors.
 - d. positive.
 - e. Practice [Quarantine and Isolation protocol](#) when symptoms are exhibited or you receive a positive test result.
 - f. Frequently wash/sanitize high-touch surfaces and hands.
 - g. Regular screening for symptoms.
 - h. Protect Grand County's higher-risk populations, such as [older adults](#) and people of any age with [underlying medical conditions](#).
3. **Any business, public or private gathering, recreation, event, or other activity in Grand County must also comply with the Updated Grand County COVID-19 Suppression Plan and Consolidated Playbooks** incorporated herein so long as this April 15, 2021 local standing public health order and any of its

subsequent amendments remain in place. The [Updated Grand County COVID-19 Suppression Plan and Consolidated Playbooks](#) can be found at www.co.grand.co.us/covid19.

- a. Protective Measures in the Suppression Plan and any linked Playbooks may be updated at any time by formal amendment of the Grand County Public Health Director, and, upon Director approval, will become a part of this Standing Public Health Order. The most up to date guidance documents can be found on the Grand County website at www.co.grand.co.us/covid19.
 - b. Any businesses, employers, sole proprietors, and organizers of events and activities, that have not already submitted, shall submit a [Compliance Verification Form](#) through Grand County Public Health for each activity subject to Activity Specific Protection Measures and display approved acceptance documentation prior to opening and receiving customers, or commencing an event or other activity. The Verification Forms can be found on the Grand County website at www.co.grand.co.us/covid19.
 - c. **All Events (whether indoor or outdoor) planning to occur in Grand County must complete the [Grand County Compliance Verification Form](#) AND receive approval from Grand County Public Health prior to holding said event.**
 - i. **Definition of Event:** A gathering of any size that is open to the public, OR a private gathering not open to the public that is expected to have 50 or more people. Events can be free or require a ticket purchase to enter.
 - ii. Event approvals may take 10 or more business days to finalize.
 - d. Any business, public or private gathering, or organized recreation, event, or other activity that is not in compliance with this and other applicable State and local public health orders shall cease operation or activity.
3. **Grand County will move into adjusted capacity limits found in the [Grand County Quick Reference Chart](#) beginning on Friday, April 16, 2021. at 12:01am.**
4. **Mask Mandate:** Grand County Public Health mandates citizens and visitors in Grand County abide by the terms of the Governor's statewide Mask Mandate which currently requires masks to be worn **when entering or within public indoor spaces where 10 or more unvaccinated individuals or individuals of unknown vaccination status are present**. It is also highly recommended that face coverings be worn outdoors if 6' distancing cannot be maintained between non-household members or parties. [State's Mask Guidance](#)
- a. **Exceptions to mask mandate:**
 - i. Individuals who cannot medically tolerate a mask
 - ii. Individuals under the age of 11 (though we recommend them for everyone 3 yrs +)
 - iii. When the safety of an individual is compromised by wearing a mask
 - iv. When in the act of eating or drinking.
 - v. Clergy members while officiating at a religious service.
 - vi. Individuals who are officiating or participating in a life rite or religious service may temporarily remove a mask if doing so is necessary to complete or participate in the life rite or religious service.
 - vii. Individuals meeting other exceptions listed under Article II. M. of the Governor's Statewide Mask Mandate ([Executive Order 2020 138](#))
 - b. Masks are required in schools, jails, and assisted living centers until the State lifts that requirement. Federal lands and properties are still subject to Federal mask requirements.
 - c. **Mask Mandate for P-12 Schools in Grand County:** Per the Grand County P-12 School Playbook, in addition to the statewide mask mandate stated above, **All children in grades pre-K through 12 and anyone else (i.e. staff, faculty, family, and visitors) over the age of two (2) who is in the confines of a Grand County pre-K-12 school setting must wear a face mask or covering over their nose and mouth, except as permitted by directives listed in the [P-12 School](#)**

Playbook. Individuals on school buses to and from school functions must also wear face coverings

- d. ***Definition of "COVID-Approved Face Coverings":*** Face coverings that protect against COVID-19, should be made from two or more breathable fabric layers that cover the nose and mouth, with no gaps around the face.
- e. Face shields and other face coverings that incorporate a valve designed to facilitate easy exhaling, mesh masks, or masks with openings, holes, visible gaps, or vents in the design or material, do not adequately protect against COVID-19 transmission and are NOT recommended. *Face shields may, however, be worn in tandem with a mask for extra protection.*
- f. Nothing in this order should be construed to prevent individuals from wearing a surgical-grade mask or other, more protective face covering to cover the nose and mouth if that type of mask or more protective face covering is appropriate under industry standards.

FINDINGS

On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared the worldwide outbreak of COVID-19 virus a "pandemic" and on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States issued a Federal Emergency Declaration for the Coronavirus pandemic. Shortly thereafter, Colorado and Grand County also declared pandemic disaster emergencies due to the presence of COVID-19 in the state.

Since that time, Grand County has seen over 1,300 positive cases of COVID-19 among residents as well as more than 100 positive cases of individuals associated with Grand County. Two residents died of complications due to COVID while another two died within a month of having COVID but not due to their COVID illness. From March 2020 through April 12, 2021, 34 patients have been hospitalized with COVID complications.

Beginning in March 2020, COVID mitigation and suppression in the State of Colorado has largely been under the control of the Colorado Department of Public Health and the Environment (CDPHE) and Governor Jared Polis. Local Public Health Agencies (LPHAs) have been allowed to institute local variances and restrictions after consultation and approval of the State, but complete local control has been minimized.

On April 16, 2021, Governor Polis is expected to devolve statewide COVID-19 restrictions and directed Local Public Health Agencies (LPHAs) to devise and enact local COVID-19 mitigation and suppression measures that best address their county's needs based on science, data and local factors.

GCPH finds that careful, medically informed community action outside the strict constraints of the State Orders is appropriate at this time. Allowing Grand County to customize its restrictions specifically to the conditions in the county will provide for comprehensive community recovery, both in terms of health and economy. The primary goals of GCPH are to protect the health and welfare of the local community; suppress and stem the transmission rate of the COVID-19 virus in Grand County, and by extension, throughout the state; improve the mental health of our citizens; and continue to help protect and recover the economic health of our businesses, workforce, and citizens as a whole.

GCPH and the local medical providers now have increasing COVID-19 vaccine supply and investigatory capacities to monitor the health of the community. This Local Public Health Order implements a number of measures that will allow businesses to open to additional customers while also maintaining sustainable levels of social distancing. While it is possible that stricter protective measures could be reimposed at some point due to increases in disease activity, the idea is to continue increasing capacities and acquiring greater herd immunity (through increased vaccination of the eligible population) that will allow us to return to a more "normal" life.

EFFECTIVE DATE AND TIME

This Public Health Order will become effective at **12:01am on April 16, 2021**, and will remain in effect until **12:01am on June 30, 2021**, unless specifically amended, superseded, extended, or terminated by order of the Grand County Public Health Director.

EFFECTIVE AREA OF ORDER

This Public Health Order is effective within the entirety of Grand County, including all towns within Grand County.

MOST RESTRICTIVE STANDARD CONTROLS

To the extent any State and/or Federal orders or laws are more restrictive than what is set forth herein, such State and/or Federal orders control. Individuals should be aware that new orders are being issued on an almost daily basis from Governor Polis and CDPHE, and all members of the public are responsible for following the Governor's orders, CDPHE orders, and local orders.

All members of the public are responsible for following all other provisions of the Governor's orders, CDPHE orders, and local orders that do not conflict with the specific protective measures set forth herein. Individuals should be aware that new orders are being issued on a regular basis from Governor Polis and CDPHE.

AUTHORITY AND ENFORCEMENT

This Order is adopted pursuant to the legal authority set forth in sections 25-1-506, 25-1-508, and 25-1-509 of the Colorado Revised Statutes, specific authorities granted to GCPH by CDPHE, as well as other applicable laws, rules, regulations, orders, and declarations. Under these laws and regulations, the Grand County Public Health Director: has the duty to investigate and control the causes of epidemic or communicable diseases and conditions affecting public health; to prohibit the gatherings of people to protect the public health, and; to establish, maintain, and enforce isolation and quarantine, and in pursuance thereof, and for this purpose only, to exercise physical control over property and over the persons of the people within Grand County as Grand County Public Health may find necessary for the protection of the public health.

FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THIS ORDER IS, IN ADDITION TO THE ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITIES AVAILABLE TO STATE AUTHORITIES, SUBJECT TO LOCAL ENFORCEMENT AND THE PENALTIES CONTAINED IN SECTIONS 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 MONTHS. FURTHERMORE, PURSUANT TO SECTION 14.8(K) OF THE GRAND COUNTY ZONING REGULATIONS, FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE SHORT TERM RENTAL PROTECTIVE MEASURES AND OTHER PROVISIONS OF THIS ORDER MAY LEAD TO SUSPENSION OR REVOCATION OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY'S GRAND COUNTY ISSUED SHORT TERM RENTAL PERMIT.

FURTHER GUIDANCE & INFORMATION RESOURCES

1. For most up to date Grand County Capacities & Protective Measures visit www.co.grand.co.us/covid19
2. For State Orders and COVID-19 information visit covid19.colorado.gov
3. CDPHE and the Governor's Executive Orders are available at <https://covid19.colorado.gov/covid-19-in-colorado/public-health-executive-orders-resource>

For questions regarding Grand County's COVID-19 response please contact the Grand County Joint Information Center at 970-725-3803 or email jicgrandcounty@gmail.com. To report violations of this Order or others, please visit co.grand.co.us/violation.

Grand County Public Health is tasked with protecting the health and welfare of the citizens of Grand 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 section 25-1-508, Colorado Revised Statutes. 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 Grand County District Court within 90 days of the date of this Order, pursuant to section 25-1-515, Colorado Revised Statutes. However, you must continue to obey the terms of this Order while your request for review is pending.



4-15-2021

Abbie Baker, MPH, CHES - Director
Grand County Public Health

Date