



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on State and Routt County Public Health Orders

Updated: April 3, 2020

We encourage all Coloradoans to follow the letter and the spirit of these orders. Do not try to bend the rules or find loopholes. We want to keep people safe and protect our doctors and hospitals. Without your cooperation, we cannot do that.

State Stay at Home Public Health Order

When does the Stay at Home Order go into effect?

The State Stay at Home Order went into effect at 6:00 a.m. on Thursday, March 26, 2020.

When does the Order end?

The State Stay at Home Order is set to last through Saturday, April 11, 2020 unless modified by further Executive Order. The Federal Government has issued guidance until April 30, 2020.

Is there punishment for those who don't follow the Public Health Orders?

The Routt County Sheriff's Office and the Police Departments of Steamboat Springs, Hayden and Oak Creek will be enforcing the State and Routt County Public Health Orders. The hope is that Routt County residents will comply with the State and County Public Health Orders. Non-compliance may result in fines up to \$5,000.00.

What do I do if see that an individual or business is not complying with the Public Health Orders?

Call the Routt County Non-Emergency Phone Number – 970-879-1110.

What can I do under this Stay at Home Order?

This executive order means Coloradans should not leave their homes except for critical activities including:

- Obtaining food and other household goods including medicine, alcohol and cannabis products
- Going to and from work if you are a critical employee
- Seeking medical care
- Caring for dependents or pets
- Caring for a vulnerable person in another location
- Participating in outdoor recreation in your area at a legally mandated safe distance of six feet or more from other parties

You can read the Governor's full order here: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1O1EDCY6-A6QBKxzDImCSF8bBBdOOI3Km/view>

What businesses will be open during the duration of this Order? Will grocery stores be open?

Yes, essential services will still be operational including, but not limited to:

- Grocery stores
- Gas stations
- Pharmacies
- Police stations
- Fire stations
- Hospitals, clinics and healthcare operations
- Garbage/sanitation
- Public transportation
- Public benefits (i.e. SNAP, Medicaid) hotlines

See full list of essential businesses at bottom of FAQs

Will roads in Colorado be closed?

No, the roads will not be closed in Colorado. You should only travel if it is essential to your work or health.

Can I take a flight out of state?

Planes and any other form of travel should only be used if absolutely necessary.

What is the difference between the stay at home order and social distancing?

Stay at home makes it very clear that Coloradans should take extreme steps to avoid contact with anybody outside their household and minimize contact in public places that could be contaminated with the COVID-19 virus. Social distancing is an important first step in preventing the spread of a disease like COVID-19 that allows people to go about their daily activities while taking extra health and safety precautions. The Stay in Place order requires people to remain in their homes unless they are going to or from work or doing an essential task like going to the grocery store or walking a pet.

Why is the Stay at Home Order necessary?

On March 5, 2020, CDPHE's public health laboratory confirmed the first presumptive positive COVID-19 test result in Colorado. Since then, the number of confirmed cases has continued to climb. We all need to take these precautions for the preservation of public health and safety throughout the entire State and to ensure our healthcare delivery system can serve those who are sick. The Polis administration, along with other state, local, and federal authorities, has taken a wide array of actions to mitigate the effects of the pandemic, prevent further spread, and protect against overwhelming our health care resources. The economic impacts of COVID-19 are significant and threaten to undermine the economic stability of many Coloradans and local businesses. The period of the economic disruption may be reduced by minimizing the spread of the virus. We must take action to shore up economic security, employment, community cohesion, and community recovery.

May I go to work during a Stay at Home Order?

Not unless you work for what's considered an essential business or service provider. You're also not supposed to travel — including on foot, bicycle, scooter, motorcycle, automobile or public transit — unless it's to do one of those essential things. Of course, if you're already working from home, then continue.

May my business make deliveries to homes?

All non-critical businesses statewide are closed to the public. Yes, home delivery is permitted for necessary services or supplies such as food, pet supplies, household consumer products such as cleaning and personal care products, and products necessary to maintain the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of a Residence [essential businesses like food and medicine delivery. Contact-less delivery is preferable, as well as online ordering. Bars and restaurants are closed, but takeout and delivery options are permitted.

May I work in my location without customers?

All non-critical businesses statewide are closed to the public. All non-critical businesses must close in-person work. Employers are encouraged to keep as many people working remotely as possible. A non-critical business may perform the minimum necessary activities to 1) maintain the value of the business's inventory, ensure security, process payroll and employee benefits, or for related functions; 2) facilitate employees of the business being able to continue to work remotely from their Residence; or 3) filling online product orders and to process customer orders remotely. Thus, a business owner can work on location to perform these "Minimum Basic Operations" duties. If minimum necessary activities absolutely involve staff, it should be the minimum necessary to complete these necessary activities and Social Distancing Requirements must be met at all times.

May I schedule one-on-one appointments?

All non-critical businesses statewide are closed to the public. Non-critical businesses cannot have one-on-one appointments. Being closed to the public applies regardless of the location of that contact. Gatherings of individuals of any size for any reason other than critical business are banned and one-on-one appointments constitute a gathering. One on one appointments risk both the operator and the client.

May people pick up products at my store?

Only products of critical businesses such as food and medicine non-critical retail stores cannot provide products for pick-up or delivery.

May I work and mail products to consumers?

Filling online product orders and processing customer orders remotely is considered Minimum Basic Operations that are allowed under the Order. If minimum necessary activities absolutely involve more than one person, it should be the minimum necessary to complete these necessary activities and Social Distancing Requirements must be met at all times.

May I go outside?

Yes, but only if you congregate with people from your household and stay at least six feet away from people not in your household.

May I go to restaurants?

No, except for takeout. Restaurants are considered essential businesses and officials are encouraging them to stay open, but only for pick up or delivery. There is a list of restaurants providing takeout. The Steamboat School District, Hayden School District and Hayden School Districts are providing meals for students in the School Lunch Program.

May I hang out with friends at their houses or at my house?

No, the intent is for people to stay home with their household. If your family is bigger than five then you can all stay home together. Any time you leave your house, even for essential reasons, you must be able to stay at least six feet away from others.

How about outdoor activity? Can my family and I still go hiking?

Since outdoor activity is so beloved in our community, everyone needs to know that all medical and EMT services are being used to combat COVID-19. If you go into the backcountry, you need to be prepared to self-rescue. At the same time, outdoor activity is good for our mental health; you can go outside to exercise but only with members of your household. No groups are allowed.

DO:

- Enjoy the outdoors with people from your household
- Go walking, hiking, Nordic skiing, snowshoeing, biking or running in your area while staying six feet from others not in your household
- Visit Colorado State Parks in your area while staying six feet from others, except your household

DO NOT:

- Visit campgrounds and playgrounds at state parks
- Travel unnecessarily to other parts of the state or rural area
- Get a hotel room or short-term rental in other parts of the state
- Don't congregate at trailheads or go far into back country or do anything at all dangerous that might require rescue or medical treatment

Can I skin up the mountain?

As of 6:00 a.m. on Thursday March 26, the Steamboat Ski Resort closed access to the mountain, including skinning. The Steamboat Resort announced its closure for the season on April 2, 2020.

What if I am a victim of domestic violence and feel unsafe in my own home?

Routt County residents whose homes are unsafe such as victims of domestic violence are urged to seek a safe, alternative residence. Please reach out to Advocates of Routt County if you need help at the 24/7 Safe Line at 970-879-8888 or safeline@advocatesr.org.

Are second homeowners allowed to visit their homes in Routt County?

The Public Health Department has indicated that some community spread has come from people coming in and out of the county. Routt County is asking second homeowners to stay home if they are not already here and stay here if they are already here. Everyone has a role to play in reducing community spread.

What about house guests, family coming to visit?

While not strictly prohibited under the orders, having guests from outside of Routt County is discouraged.

Will public transportation be available?

Yes, public transportation should be used for essential travel only. When possible, walk or drive yourself. If you need public transportation and believe you may be sick, please call your medical provider first.

What if my work is still open and I have to be there? How can I keep from getting sick?

The Order also requires essential businesses to follow physical distancing policies of six feet and limit the amount of people congregating in one location at a time. Employers must protect high-risk workers, provide hand washing or sanitizer stations and wipe down counters frequently. You can also decrease your chances of germ transfer by frequently washing your hands, wearing gloves, wiping down your workstation, etc.

Should I call the hospital if I'm getting sick?

Those at high risk of infection and illness from COVID-19 are encouraged to call their medical provider first. Any Routt County residents who *are* sick are urged to stay in their home. You can also call Ask a Nurse at 970-871-7878.

What happens if I have come in direct contact with someone who has tested positive?

It is recommended that you self-quarantine for 14 days. If you develop symptoms call your healthcare provider. If you don't have symptoms, self-isolate, and take care of yourself. If your symptoms worsen, UHealth Yampa Valley Medical Center offers an Ask a Nurse line at 970-871-7878.

Routt County Public Health Orders

What are the Public Health Orders for Routt County?

Routt County issued two Public Health Orders on March 24, 2020. The first Public Health Order limits lodging and prohibits any new visitors from coming to Routt County and the second limits public gatherings to no more than five people. Both Orders are in effect for 30 days and can be extended.

How do the State's Stay at Home Orders affect the Routt County Orders?

Both are in effect at the same time. The Governor's Order is more restrictive and limits public gathering to only members of your household. The Routt County Order on lodging is more restrictive as to lodging and prohibits any new visitors coming to Routt County.

What is the Routt County Lodging Order?

The Lodging Order prohibits any new visitors coming to Routt County and staying in local lodging. All short term lodging (30 days or less), including but not limited to hotels, motels, timeshares, short-term rentals (including but not limited to rentals done through direct owner to renter contact, a management company, VRBO, Airbnb, or other similar service), bed and breakfasts, lodges, retreats, RV parks, and camping is prohibited. There shall be no new bookings or reservations for the time period in which this Order is in effect. Reservations beginning on or after 8:00 a.m. on March 27, 2020 shall be cancelled.

Are there exemptions to the Lodging Order?

Yes, the following are exempt from the Lodging Order:

- Lodging necessary for emergency or quarantine purposes
- Lodging necessary to provide lodging for essential federal, state, county or local personnel, including, but not limited to, essential personnel for the County's Emergency Operations Center and Public Health Department
- Advocates of Routt County's domestic violence shelter
- Lodging necessary because it is not safe or possible for a guest to depart from the County
- Lodging that is occupied by a local worker

WHAT ABOUT THE ROUTT COUNTY PUBLIC GATHERING ORDER?

Routt County issued a Public Health Order on March 24 limiting public gatherings to five people. This order was before the Governor issued his Stay at Home order that limited congregating to people in your household. The State Order is more restrictive than the Routt County Order and needs to be followed.

Routt County Guidance for Commercial and Residential Projects

What construction projects can continue?

Any construction that is not essential to public health, safety, or infrastructure that can feasibly be put on hold for the time being should be. Some examples of such projects may include construction of a second home or other properties that will not be a primary residence or a part of critical community infrastructure when they are complete or discretionary remodel projects that are not providing critical health and safety improvements.

Can I hire non-local crews to work on my project?

The Routt County Board of Health is very concerned about crews coming from outside Routt and Moffat counties. Routt County asks for the use of local crews only, which do not leave for other counties, states or countries. This is very important and when possible to avoid this at all costs, utilize local contractors whenever possible.

I already have non-local crews, what do I do?

If there are no options for local sub-contractors on essential commercial construction projects and outside resources are required, then please ensure they do not leave on a weekly basis, we recommend they stay for a duration of 3 to 4 weeks minimum, or until the work is completed when less than 3 or 4 weeks. While they are here they must comply with all state and local public health orders which require them to stay at home unless they are engaged in "necessary activities" and gathering with anyone who is not a member of their household is prohibited.

Can my non-local workers stay in lodging?

Construction workers can stay in local lodging, per the Routt County Public Health Order, and can be classified as local workers. These workers should remain in the county and not travel somewhere else and return (e.g., weekend travel). There is a voluntary form suggested by the State of Colorado that construction workers and other essential businesses can use when traveling.

<https://covid19.colorado.gov/sites/covid19/files/Critical%20Business%20Self%20Certification.pdf>

Do I need other documentation for my work site?

All Active Permitted Construction Projects must have an Active COVID-19 Construction Site Management Plan on file with the Routt County Regional Building Department and posted and available on each construction site. This is a Building Department Policy, not a Guideline, and can be enforceable through a Stop Work Order for a minimum period of 14 days if not followed.

What is the Guidance on Essential Residential Construction Projects?

All Essential New Residential Construction projects should limit the total number of workers on site at any given time to one person per 300 square feet and no more than five at any given time, maintain constant six-foot separation, and have a COVID-19 Safety Site Plan posted on site and on file with their construction documents.

How many people can be on site at one time?

All Essential Residential remodels or interior/exterior alterations should use smart practices on small projects, when square footage is less than 1,500 square feet in your work area, then only have a person for every 300 square feet of work area. For example, a bathroom remodel that is essential would have one person on the site at once. If you have a construction crew working, they must maintain physical distancing of six feet.

What is the Guidance on Essential Commercial Construction Projects?

The governor asked all businesses to reduce employees and staff by 50%. Construction and affiliated businesses need to do the same. Routt County requests that projects reduce workers on site by a minimum of 50% on site compared to what was previous to the Governor's Stay at Home Order and following the below recommendation in addition to this reduction.

What is the distancing guidance on projects?

No more than five workers should be within a building for every 1,500 square feet of area available inside that single building. For essential commercial projects less than 1,500 square feet, then no more than one worker for every 300 square feet should be inside the work area/building.

Where can I look to find more information about this order and staying healthy?

- COVID 19 webpage www.covid19routtcounty.com
- Call line to answer at 970-871-8444
- Facebook, Routt County Emergency Management and Routt County
- Instagram, Routt County
- Subscribe for press releases and County News at <http://www.co.routt.co.us/list.aspx>

Critical Businesses and Operations

What is a critical business or operation under the Order? What businesses will be open?

Critical Business. Any business, including any for profit or non-profit, regardless of its corporate structure, engaged primarily in any of the commercial, manufacturing, or service activities listed below, may continue to operate as normal. **Critical Businesses** must comply with the guidance and directives for maintaining a clean and safe work environment issued by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) and any applicable local health department. **Critical Businesses** must comply with **Social Distancing Requirements** and all PHOs currently in effect to the greatest extent possible and will be held accountable for doing so. **Critical Businesses** do NOT include health clubs as defined in C.R.S. § 6-1-102(4.6), fitness and exercise gyms, and similar facilities, or any of the other businesses required to close by PHO 20-22.

“Critical Business” means:

- **Healthcare Operations, including:**
 - Hospitals, clinics, and walk-in health facilities
 - Medical and dental care, including ambulatory providers
 - Research and laboratory services
 - Medical wholesale and distribution
 - Home health care companies, workers and aides
 - Pharmacies
 - Pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies
 - Behavioral health care providers
 - Veterinary care and livestock services
 - Nursing homes, residential health care, or congregate care facilities
 - Medical supplies and equipment manufacturers and providers, including durable medical equipment technicians and suppliers
 - Blood banks

- **Critical Infrastructure, including:**
 - Utilities and electricity, including generation, transmission, distribution, and fuel supply
 - Road and railways
 - Oil and gas extraction, production, refining, storage, transport, and distribution
 - Public water and wastewater
 - Telecommunications and data centers
 - Transportation and infrastructure necessary to support authorized businesses
 - Hotels and places of accommodation
 - Businesses and organizations that provide food, shelter, social services, and other necessities of life for economically disadvantaged, persons with access and functional needs, or otherwise needy individuals

- Food and plant cultivation, including farming crops, livestock, food processing and manufacturing, animal feed and feed products, rendering, commodity sales, and any other work critical to the operation of any component of the food supply chain
 - Any business that produces critical or incidental to the construction or operation of the categories of products included in this subsection
- **Critical Manufacturing, including:**
 - Food processing, manufacturing agents, including all foods and beverages
 - Chemicals
 - Computers and computer components
 - Medical equipment, components used in any medical device, supplies or instruments
 - Pharmaceuticals
 - Sanitary products
 - Telecommunications
 - Microelectronics/semiconductor
 - Agriculture/farms
 - Household paper products
 - Any business that produces products critical or incidental to the processing, functioning, development, manufacture, or delivery of any of the categories of products included in this subsection
 - Any manufacturing necessary to support a **Critical Business**
- **Critical Retail, including:**
 - Grocery stores including all food and beverage stores
 - Farm and produce stands
 - Gas stations and convenience stores
 - Restaurants/bars (for take-out/delivery only as necessary under Executive Order D 2020 011 and PHO 20-22, as amended)
 - Marijuana dispensary (only for the sale of medical marijuana or curbside delivery pursuant to Executive Order D 2020 011)
 - Liquor stores
 - Firearms stores
 - Hardware, farm supply, and building material stores
 - Establishments engaged in the retail sale of food and any other household consumer products (such as cleaning and personal care products)
 - Establishments engaged in the sale of products that support working from home (this exclusion does not include businesses that primarily sell hobby craft supplies)
- **Critical Services, including:**
 - Trash, compost, and recycling collection, processing and disposal
 - Mail and shipping services, and locations that offer P.O. boxes
 - Self-serve laundromats and garment and linen cleaning services for critical businesses
 - Building cleaning and maintenance
 - Childcare services
 - Automobile rental, automobile online sales with no touch delivery service, auto supply and repair (including retail dealerships that include repair and maintenance, but not in person retail sales)
 - Warehouse/distribution and fulfillment, including freight distributors
 - Funeral homes, crematoriums, and cemeteries, with strict compliance with **Social Distancing Requirements** for employees and any attendees of services

- In-person pastoral services for individuals who are in crisis or in need of end of life services provided social distancing is observed to the greatest extent possible. Houses of worship may remain open, however, these institutions are encouraged to implement electronic platforms to conduct services whenever possible or to conduct smaller (10 or fewer congregants), more frequent services to allow strict compliance with **Social Distancing Requirements**
 - Storage for **Critical Businesses**
 - Animal shelters, animal boarding services, animal rescues, zoological facilities, animal sanctuaries, and other related facilities
 - Moving services
- **News Media, including:**
 - Newspapers
 - Television
 - Radio
 - Other media services
- **Financial and Professional Institutions, including:**
 - Banks and credit institutions
 - Insurance and payroll
 - Services related to financial markets
 - Professional services, such as legal, title companies, or accounting services, real estate appraisals and transactions
- **Providers of Basic Necessities for Economically Disadvantaged Populations, including:**
 - Homeless shelter and congregate care facilities
 - Food banks
 - Human services providers whose function includes the direct care of patients in State-licensed or funded voluntary programs; the care, protection, custody and oversight of individuals both in the community and in State-licensed residential facilities; those operating community shelters and other critical human services agencies providing direct care or support
- **Construction, including but not limited to:**
 - Housing and housing for low-income and vulnerable people
 - Skilled trades such as electricians, plumbers
 - Other related firms and professionals for who provide services necessary to maintain the safety, sanitation, and critical operation of residences and other **Critical Businesses** or **Critical Government Functions** , and other essential services
- **Defense**
 - Defense, security, and intelligence-related operations supporting the State of Colorado, local government, the U.S. Government or a contractor for any of the foregoing
 - Aerospace operations
 - Military operations and personnel
 - Defense suppliers

- **Critical Services Necessary to Maintain the Safety, Sanitation and Critical Operations of Residences or Other Critical Businesses, including:**
 - Law enforcement
 - Fire prevention and response
 - Building code enforcement
 - Security
 - Emergency management and response
 - Building cleaners or janitors
 - General maintenance whether employed by the entity directly or a vendor (including maintenance and repair of ordinary household and business appliances but not in-person retail sales of such products)
 - Automotive and bicycle repair
 - Disinfection
 - Snow removal
 - Bail bonds agents

- **Vendors That Prove Critical Services or Products, including logistics and technology support, child care and services:**
 - Logistics
 - Technology support for online and telephone services
 - Child care programs and services
 - Government owned or leased buildings
 - **Critical government services**

- **Educational Institutions that Provide Critical Services to Students and the General Public, including:**
 - K-12 public school and private schools for the purpose of providing meals, housing, facilitating or providing materials for distance learning, and providing other essential services to students, provided that **Social Distancing Requirements** are observed
 - Postsecondary institutions, including private and public colleges and universities, for the purpose of facilitating distance learning, providing in-person classroom or laboratory education for less than 10 students per classroom or lab in medical training fields only, or performing essential functions, provided that **Social Distancing Requirements** are observed, such as security, medical and mental health services, housing, food services, and critical research

- **Critical Government Functions** – the provision, operation and support of the following state and local government functions shall continue:
 - Critical services, including:
 - Public safety (police stations, fire and rescue stations, correctional institutions, emergency vehicle and equipment storage, and emergency operation centers)
 - Emergency response
 - Judicial branch operations, including attorneys if necessary for ongoing trials and required court appearances, unless appearances can be done remotely
 - Legislative and executive branch functions
 - Emergency medical (hospitals, ambulance service centers, urgent care centers having emergency treatment functions, and non-ambulatory surgical structures but excluding clinics, doctor’s offices, and non-urgent medical structures that do not provide these functions);

- Designated emergency shelters
- Communications (main hubs for telephone, broadcasting equipment for cable systems, satellite dish systems, cellular systems, television, radio, and other warning systems, but excluding towers, poles, lines, cables and conduits;)
- Public utility plant facilities for generation and distribution (drinking water and wastewater infrastructure, hubs, treatment plants, substations and pumping stations for power and gas, but not including towers, poles, power lines, and oil and gas buried pipelines)
- Transportation. All public and private airports, airlines, taxis, transportation network providers (such as Uber and Lyft), vehicle rental services, paratransit, and other private, public, and commercial transportation and logistics providers necessary for **Necessary Activities**
- Transportation infrastructure (aviation control towers, air traffic control centers, and emergency equipment aircraft hangars), critical road construction and maintenance
- Hazardous material safety
- Services to at-risk populations and **Vulnerable Individuals**
- Activities related to federal, state, and local elections, including any required acts of a political party, provided **Social Distancing Requirements** are observed to the greatest extent possible
- Any government service, state or local, required for the public health and safety, government functionality, or vital to restoring normal services