



Custer County
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
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May 15, 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Subject: Custer County has received a variance (waiver) from the State of Colorado. The waiver will become effective Friday, May 16 at 12:01 AM.

On May 8, 2020, Custer County Public Health requested a variance to portions of the Executive Order D 20 044 Safer at Home and Public Health Order 20-08 Safer at Home. At 9:21 PM May 14, 2020 Custer County received the variance from the State of Colorado.

Amendments to Waiver

The waiver was granted with the condition that Custer County abides by the following amendments made by Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE):

- The following new opening conditions must be present for all locations:
 - All locations shall be limited to 30% of fire code capacity
 - Employees shall be screened and those who are symptomatic shall be excluded from the location and isolated for 10 days, per CDC guidelines.
 - Face coverings shall be worn by all employees at all times.
 - Customers shall be screened before entering the location and anyone who is experiencing symptoms shall be excluded. This can be accomplished by signage on the door notifying the public not to enter if they have any symptoms of COVID-19.
 - Any self-service areas shall remain closed.
 - Signs shall be posted at entrances and throughout the location as needed to remind customers of a minimum of 6 feet social distance and proper hygiene.
 - Implement one way enter/exit and directional walkways as much as possible.
 - Reasonable accommodations are made for vulnerable populations.
 - Provide readily available handwashing and/or sanitizer for employees and customers.
- Restaurants shall have the following elements in plans:
 - Tables shall be spaced at a distance that allows for customers to remain at least 6-foot distance.
 - Group parties limited to six members of a single household.
 - Require customers to wear face coverings in order to enter the business and keep them in place until they have reached their table.
 - Bars are to remain closed, including bar seating in restaurants.
 - Buffets shall have an employee serving food.
 - Staff handling dirty dishes must wear gloves and an apron.
 - Implement or maintain physical barriers for high contact settings.
 - Implement touchless methods where possible.
- Bars are to remain closed, including bar seating in restaurants. This was already included in our initial waiver request to the state.
- Places of worship plans to reopen must include the following:

- Participants should be encouraged to wear a face covering both when entering and while present in the house of worship, except when specific participation in the service requires removal, such as to receive communion.
- No mingling of crowds before or after service.
- Implement touchless offering and communion options as much as possible.
- Perform environmental cleaning and disinfection of bathrooms and high touch surfaced every two hours and maintain a cleaning log.
- Provide 6 feet of distance between individuals or between groups of a single household.
- Gyms plans to reopen must contain the following:
 - Customers should be encouraged to wear a face covering both when entering the facility and while in the facility, unless a face covering inhibits the participants ability to participate in the fitness activity.
 - Given the many unknowns regarding how COVID-19 is spread, use of equipment in the gym must be limited to no closer than every other machine so that participants are not exercising right next to each other and smaller exercise rooms with poor ventilation should be discouraged from use.
 - Spread people out to that there is at least a 10-foot social distance between individuals throughout the facility.
 - Personal training is allowed while strictly adhering to social distancing guidelines and limited to 4 people, plus the instructor.
 - Indoor and outdoor shared spaces (waiting areas, gathering spots) must remain closed.
 - Employees must clean and disinfect shared equipment between customer uses.
 - On-site child care facilities must remain closed.

Possible Changes

If circumstances change, CDPHE (Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment) reserves the right to modify or rescind the variance (waiver) approval. The following are examples of such changes:

- Surges in COVID-19 transmissions occurs
- Cases exceed the capacity for Custer County to fully implement all effective disease control strategies
- If resources of COVID-19 prevalence statewide in CDPHE's opinion requires a different approach

Guidance Regarding the Waiver

In an effort to lessen confusion, Custer County Public Health Agency will publish guidance for restaurants, coffee shops, gyms, places of worship, etc. regarding the waiver. This will ensure that the businesses and the public are aware of the new guidelines within Custer County. These guidelines will be available on the Custer County COVID-19 webpage: <https://www.custercountycolorado.com/covid-19>.

We are excited to take these steps to open Custer County in a way that is sustainable and protects the health and safety of our community. For these steps to continue we are relying on you, our community, to protect one another. That means wearing a mask in public, washing your hands often, and using hand sanitizer in between handwashes. It is the actions of each individual that will protect the whole community.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Elisa Livengood, Custer County Public Health Director at publichealth@custercountygov.com or (719)-783-3369.