



## **NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEALTH ORDER IMPLEMENTING LIMITS ON MASS GATHERINGS COUNTYWIDE**

The Ouray County Public Health Agency (OCPHA) is working to stop the spread of novel coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) in Colorado. I find it necessary to implement limits on mass gatherings in Ouray County through April 30, 2020, in an effort to protect and preserve the public health.

### **FINDINGS**

1. COVID-19 was first detected in Wuhan, China in late 2019, and since then has spread to over 60 countries including the United States. There are 277 known presumptive positive cases of COVID-19 in Colorado as of March 19, 2020, and there is every expectation that more cases will be diagnosed.
2. While Ouray County does not have a confirmed positive case, our local medical experts are operating under the suspicion that they are treating patients with COVID-19 and that extreme medical testing limitations at the local, state and federal level is the reason for the lack of information regarding diagnosis in our community.
3. COVID-19 is a respiratory illness caused by a novel coronavirus, and like other respiratory illnesses, is transmitted through person-to-person contact or by contact with surfaces contaminated with the virus. Persons infected with COVID-19 may become symptomatic anywhere from two to fourteen days after exposure. Symptoms include fever, cough or shortness of breath or difficulty breathing.
4. Individuals with serious chronic health conditions and older adults are most at risk for becoming very ill with this disease.
5. On March 10, 2020, the Governor of Colorado declared a State of Emergency related to the presence of COVID-19 in the State. CDPHE has confirmed that COVID-19 continues to spread throughout the State of Colorado.
6. On March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared a National Emergency due to COVID-19.
7. On March 16, 2020, The Ouray County Board of County Commissioners declared a disaster emergency due to the spreading virus.
8. On March 19, 2020, the Incident Command Policy Group met to discuss strategies and information to combat the spread of the virus.
9. A significant number of Coloradans are at risk of serious health complications, including death, from COVID-19. Although most individuals who contract COVID-19 do not become seriously ill, persons with mild symptoms and asymptomatic persons with COVID-19 may place other vulnerable members of the public at significant risk. A large surge in the number of persons with serious infections can compromise the ability of the healthcare system to deliver necessary healthcare to the public. Colorado is experiencing a rapid increase in COVID-19 transmission that



threatens the health of residents and risks overwhelming the healthcare system in the state of Colorado.

#### ORDER

Effective at 4:00 PM on March 20, 2020 until April 30, 2020, all mass gatherings shall be limited to no more than ten (10) people.

I. **Definitions.** For purposes of this Order:


1. **"Mass Gathering"** means community, civic, public, leisure, faith-based events, sporting events with spectators, concerts, conventions, fundraisers, parades, fairs, festivals, and any similar event or activity that brings together ten (10) or more persons in a single room or space at the same time in a venue such as an auditorium, stadium, arena, large conference room, meeting hall, private club, or any other confined indoor or outdoor space.
2. **"Essential Goods and Services"** means public utilities or utility service providers (e.g., electric utility providers, internet service providers, and water and sewer services providers), grocery stores, hardware stores, or medical service providers.

II. This order shall not apply to the following:

1. The Ouray County courts;
2. Normal operations at airports, bus and train stations, health care facilities, grocery or retail stores, pharmacies, or other spaces where ten (10) or more persons may be in transit for essential goods and services; and
3. Office environments, government buildings where essential government services are offered, or factories and businesses where more than ten (10) people are present but social distancing measures of maintaining at least six (6) feet between individuals is standard.

OCPHA is tasked with protecting the health and welfare of the citizens of 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. Immediate issuance of this Order is necessary for the preservation of public health, safety, or welfare.

**FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THIS ORDER IS SUBJECT TO 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.**

  
Tanner Kingery, MPH, Public Health Director

Date: March 20, 2020