



## Legislative Council Staff

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## Memorandum

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November 24, 2020

**TO:** Interested Persons

**FROM:** Juliann Jenson, Research Analyst, 303-866-3264

**SUBJECT:** Public Health Orders Issued During the COVID-19 Pandemic

### Summary

This memorandum provides an overview of the various Public Health Orders issued by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) during the declared disaster emergency related to COVID-19 in Colorado. Thirteen public health orders have been issued since March, 2020. The full text of the Public Health Orders can be found here:

<https://covid19.colorado.gov/public-health-executive-orders>

### Current Public Health Orders

Three Public Health Orders remain in effect and address stay-at-home restrictions, elective surgeries, and nursing facilities or convalescent homes.

**COVID-19 dial.** [Public Health Order 20-36](#) replaces the safer-at home dial and imposes a modified framework to limit social and economic activity in the state. It also adds a sixth category that provides another opportunity to avoid stay-at-home restrictions. Issued on November 20, 2020, and in effect until December 20, 2020. A fact sheet about Colorado's COVID-19 dial framework can be found at this [link](#).

**Elective or voluntary surgeries.** [Public Health Order 20-29](#) outlines the priorities, requirements, and criteria facilities must follow, including face coverings and ventilation, if they are restarting voluntary or elective procedures. Amended eight times since first issued on April 27, 2020, and in effect until December 17, 2020.

**Skilled nursing, intermediate care, and assisted living facilities.** [Public Health Order 20-20](#) requires all Colorado licensed or certified skilled nursing facilities, intermediate care facilities, and assisted living residences to submit a COVID-19 Prevention and Response Plan to CDPHE and set up facility screening, testing, communication and visitation policies. Amended six times since first issued on March 12, 2020, and in effect until December 30, 2020. Further information about nursing homes and congregate care facilities can be found [here](#).

## Expired Public Health Orders

Ten Public Health Orders are no longer in effect or have been superseded by different frameworks.

**Business closures.** [Public Health Order 20-22](#) closed bars, dine-in restaurants, theaters, gyms, nonessential personal services, and casinos in Colorado. The order also established parameters around to-go services and deliveries. Expired April 30, 2020.

**Face coverings.** [Public Health Order 20-26](#) and [Public Health Order 20-31](#) required workers in critical businesses, government, and public transportation to wear facemasks and gloves. Expired June 14, 2020 and August 15, 2020, respectively.

**Hospital data.** [Public Health Order 20-27](#) and [Public Health Order 20-30](#) required hospitals to report data about confirmed and suspected cases of COVID-19. Expired May 31, 2020, and August 31, 2020, respectively.

**Protect our neighbors.** [Public Health Order 20-32](#) provided guidelines for Colorado's third pandemic response phase, which allowed for a broader opening of businesses and activities in counties that met state standards in responding to and controlling the virus. Expired November 5, 2020.

**Safer-at home dial.** [Public Health Order 20-35](#) superseded the state's safer-at-home policies and detailed five status categories in the dial framework that controlled the level of re-opening permitted by a county. Expired November 6, 2020.

**Safer-at-home and safer-at-home in the vast, great outdoors.** [Public Health Order 20-28](#) transitioned the state from stay-at-home to safer-at home. It outlined social distancing requirements, limited group gatherings, forced isolation for the sick, and continued with business closures. The order was amended numerous times and progressed to safer-at-home in the vast, great outdoors. The amendments incorporated previous safer-at-home limitations on social distancing while adopting face-covering requirements and limitations on alcohol sales, among other things. Expired September 21, 2020.

**Social distancing.** [Public Health Order 20-23](#) prohibited gatherings of more than ten persons, but exempted several essential services, such as health care facilities, airports, grocery stores, and pharmacies. Expired April 19, 2020.

**Stay-at-home requirements.** [Public Health Order 20-24](#) directed all Coloradans to stay at home, with limited exceptions such as obtaining food and other household necessities, going to and from work at critical businesses, seeking medical care, caring for dependents or pets, or caring for a vulnerable person in another location. The order also directed all non-critical businesses to temporarily close, except as necessary to engage in minimum basic operations. Expired April 11, 2020.

Attachment A numerically lists the Public Health Orders and includes the date of issuance and subsequent amendments.

## Colorado Public Health Orders

<b>Number</b>	<b>Date Issued</b>	<b>Title</b>
<a href="#"><u>20-20</u></a>	3/12/2020 4/20/2020 7/30/2020 9/3/2020 11/10/2020 11/20/2020	COVID-19 Prevention and Response in Skilled Nursing Facilities, Assisted Living, Intermediate Care, and Group Homes
<a href="#"><u>20-22</u></a>	3/19/2020	Closing Bars, Restaurants, Theaters, Gymnasiums, Casinos, Nonessential Personal Services, and Horse Track and Off-Track Betting – Expired April 30, 2020
<a href="#"><u>20-23</u></a>	3/20/2020	Social Distancing Measures – Expired April 19, 2020
<a href="#"><u>20-24</u></a>	3/22/2020 3/27/2020 4/1/2020 4/9/2020	Implementing Stay at Home Requirements – Expired April 11, 2020
<a href="#"><u>20-26</u></a>	4/22/2020 5/18/2020	Face Coverings for Critical Businesses- Expired June 14, 2020
<a href="#"><u>20-27</u></a>	4/21/2020	Hospital Data Reporting for COVID-19 – Expired May 21, 2020
<a href="#"><u>20-28</u></a>	4/26/2020 5/4/2020 5/8/2020 5/14/2020 5/26/2020 6/5/2020 6/18/2020 6/30/2020 7/30/2020 8/21/2020	Safer at Home - Expired     Safer at Home and in the Vast, Great Outdoors – Expired September 21, 2020
<a href="#"><u>20-29</u></a>	4/27/2020 5/5/2020 5/26/2020 6/25/2020 7/25/2020 8/21/2020 9/20/2020 10/19/2020 11/18/2020	Limited Recommencement of Voluntary or Elective Surgeries and Procedures in Colorado
<a href="#"><u>20-30</u></a>	6/2/2020	Hospital Data Reporting for COVID-19 – Expired August 31, 2020
<a href="#"><u>20-31</u></a>	6/30/2020 7/21/2020	Face Coverings for Critical Businesses and Mass Transportation Operations – Expired August 15, 2020
<a href="#"><u>20-32</u></a>	7/10/2020 8/7/2020 9/5/2020 10/5/2020	Protect Our Neighbors – Expired November 5, 2020
<a href="#"><u>20-35</u></a>	9/15/2020 10/8/2020 10/23/2020 10/27/2020	Safer at Home Dial – Expired November 6, 2020
<a href="#"><u>20-36</u></a>	11/2/2020 11/17/2020 11/20/2020	COVID-19 Dial