

## LARIMER COUNTY | HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT

1525 Blue Spruce Drive, Fort Collins, Colorado 80524, 970.498.6700, Larimer.org/health

### SEVENTH PUBLIC HEALTH ORDER

#### RE: FACE COVERINGS

**May 3, 2020**

This Public Health Order is issued pursuant to Colo. Rev. Stat. §25-1-506, 508, 509, 516 and other applicable authority.

On March 10, 2020, the Governor of Colorado declared a State of Emergency related to the presence of COVID-19 in the State. The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment has confirmed that COVID-19 continues to spread throughout the State of Colorado.

On March 13, 2020, Larimer County declared a Local Disaster Emergency related to COVID-19.

On March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared a National Emergency due to COVID-19.

On March 22, 2020, the Governor of the State of Colorado issued Executive Order D2020-013 ordering non-critical workplaces to reduce their in-person workforce by 50% and to implement telework capabilities to the greatest extent possible due to the presence of COVID-19 in the state ("March 22 Reduced Workforce EO").

On March 22, 2020, the Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, pursuant to Colorado Revised Statute §§ 25-1.5-101(1)(a) and 25-1.5-102(1)(a)(I), also issued an order defining critical businesses and critical government functions that are exempt from the directives of EO D2020-013 ("March 22 CDPHE Reduced Workforce Order").

By March 25, 2020 various jurisdictions around Colorado issued stay-at-home orders including: the City and County of Denver, and Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Douglas, and Jefferson Counties.

On March 25, 2020 the Larimer County Public Health Director issued a Stay-at-Home order until April 17, 2020.





Also on March 25, 2020, Governor Polis and the Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment issued a statewide Stay-at-Home Order until April 11, 2020.

On April 6, 2020 Governor Polis and the Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment extended the statewide Stay-at-Home Order until April 26 2020.

On April 8, 2020 the Larimer County Public Health Director extended the Stay-at-Home order until April 26, 2020.

On April 23, 2020 the Colorado Department of Health and Environment issued an Order requiring employees of Critical Businesses and Critical Government Functions to wear face coverings when in close proximity (6 feet) to others.

On April 26, 2020 the statewide and countywide Stay-at-Home orders were replaced with the statewide Safer-at-Home orders.

## **BASIS FOR ORDER**

The virus that causes Coronavirus 2019 (“COVID-19”) is easily transmitted, especially in group settings, and it is essential that the spread of the virus be slowed to protect the ability of public and private health care providers to handle the influx of new patients and safeguard public health and safety. This Order is necessary because of the risk of the rapid spread of the virus, and the need to protect all members of Larimer County, especially including our members most susceptible to the virus and also health care providers.

This Order is issued based on scientific evidence and best practices regarding the most effective approaches to slow the transmission of communicable diseases generally and COVID-19 specifically. Due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus in the general public, which is now a pandemic according to the World Health Organization, there is a public health emergency throughout Larimer County and the State of Colorado.

Making the problem worse, some individuals who contract the COVID-19 virus have no symptoms or have mild symptoms, which means they may not be aware they carry the virus. Because even people without symptoms can transmit the disease, and because evidence shows the disease is easily spread, gatherings can result in preventable transmission of the virus. The scientific evidence shows that at this stage of the emergency, it is essential to slow virus transmission as much as possible to protect the most vulnerable and to prevent the health care system from being overwhelmed.

One proven way to slow the transmission is for individuals to wear a mask or other facial covering. The CDC recommends the widespread use of face coverings as a mechanism to slow the spread of COVID-19. The primary transmission of COVID-19 is now known to be droplet-based, and the transmission largely occurs in the first seven days after infection,



~~when people are largely asymptomatic. According to the World Health Organization, nearly one in four people who are infected spread the virus while asymptomatic. Face coverings, when combined with social distancing and other preventative measures, have been shown to significantly reduce person-to-person transmission, especially during asymptomatic contact.~~

This Order is adopted pursuant to the legal authority set forth in sections 25-1-506, Colorado Revised Statutes and other applicable law. Under this law, the Larimer County Public Health Director has the duty to investigate and control the causes of epidemic or communicable diseases and conditions affecting 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 the jurisdiction of the agency as the agency may find necessary for the protection of the public health, and to close public places and to prohibit gatherings of people when necessary to protect public health.

The intent of this Order is to protect those members of the public who need to be out of their homes in order to access and provide goods and services and to the maximum extent feasible to slow the spread of COVID-19, while enabling the continuation of essential services, businesses and travel necessary to protect public health and safety, and for the continuity of social and commercial life.

## **I. ORDER:**

Effective May 3, 2020 at 12 p.m.,

All employees who come into contact with the public or other individuals are required to wear face coverings beginning on May 2, 2020 and continuing until May 30, 2020.

All individuals entering or in line to enter businesses including but not limited to in-person retail services, personal services, critical businesses, curbside and takeout restaurants, must cover their nose and mouth by wearing a mask or other form of facial covering beginning on May 2, 2020 and continuing until May 30, 2020.

Facial Coverings or masks include medical grade masks (non- N95 type) that are made of cloth, fabric, or other soft or permeable material, without holes, that covers the nose and mouth and surrounding areas of the lower face. A Face Covering may be factory-made, or may be handmade and improvised from ordinary household materials. The Face Covering should fit snugly but comfortably against the side of the face, include multiple layers of fabric, allow for breathing without restriction, and be able to be laundered and machine-dried without damage or change to shape. Face Coverings need to cover the nose and mouth at all times and should remain in place until taken off safely. Due to the scarcity of medical grade masks, non-medical grade masks are recommended for all non-healthcare workers to allow medical grade masks to be saved for healthcare workers.



This order does not apply to those individuals who have medical conditions which make wearing of a mask or covering a risk to their health or that will interfere with their breathing. During the safer at home phase, susceptible individuals with underlying health conditions should remain at home, as they are more at risk for contracting COVID-19.

This order does not apply to children under the age of two. Childcare facilities should continue to follow state guidelines. Other specific industries or situations which already have specific guidelines with regard to masks or face coverings should continue to follow federal, state, and local regulations relating to their specific industry.

Local municipalities can be more stringent in their face covering orders. Follow the local guidance set by municipalities if it exists.

## **II. FURTHER GUIDANCE**

Further guidelines for face coverings and social distancing are available at [www.larimer.org/health](http://www.larimer.org/health)

## **III. GENERAL INFORMATION FOR ALL PERSONS AFFECTED BY THIS ORDER**

LCDHE is tasked with protecting the health and welfare of the citizens of Larimer 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. 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; an action with the Larimer 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.

This Order remains in effect until May 30, 2020, unless otherwise extended or amended in writing.

**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, OR OTHER REMEDIES AVAILABLE BY LAW.**

Tom Gonzales, MPH  
Larimer County Public Health Director