



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Routt County Commissioners Amend Public Health Order On Business Site Mitigation Plans to Align with Governor's New Safer at Home Order

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS, CO – April 27, 2020 — The Routt County Commissioners, acting as the Board of Health, updated the County's Public Health Order 2020-03 which relates to site mitigation plans for businesses, non-profits, and government agencies to be in line with the Governor's Safer at Home Executive Order issued last night, April 26. The amended Routt County Public Health Order for site mitigation plans will be in effect for 30 days – April 27 through May 27, 2020. Last week the Commissioners extended the Public Health Order limiting lodging in short-term rentals until May 31, 2020.

During the discussion, Commission Chair Tim Corrigan said, "It is the intent of Routt County to remain in harmony with the State's Public Health Order. The site mitigation plan supports the State's Public Health Order and provides businesses with clarity. Our only difference with the state is that we are more restrictive in two areas: 1) restricting short-term lodging; and 2) requiring customers to wear facemasks when going into a place of business."

Before the vote, the County Medical Officer, Dr. Brian Harrington gave a snapshot on COVID-19 diagnosis and preparation in Routt County. "Our prevalence of disease has trended down the past 14 days. Our hospital plan for a surge of cases is in place. Our testing capacity has dramatically improved; we can get results in 24-48 hours; and we can test all symptomatic people. In addition, we do have the Public Health staff for contact tracing and we have the ability to measure social distancing. We do rate well as a county."

Since the Commissioners only received the State Public Health Order right before the Board of Health meeting, they focused on the key elements the public needs to know today and said they will consider whether further amendments to the local Public Health Order are necessary after more details on the state order are understood.

Key Elements of the State Public Health Order most important for Monday

- Any businesses that open must follow strict precautions outlined in the Order
- Retail stores can provide curbside pick-up starting Monday April 27
- Real estate agents can give showings starting Monday, April 27, but no open houses will be allowed
- Elective surgeries can start on April 27
- Individual restrictions remain in place concerning limitations on activities, travel, and public gatherings
- Workplace restrictions remain necessary to implement standard Social Distancing Requirements, cleaning standards, and other items necessary to reduce the possibility of disease spread
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- Additionally, certain businesses and activities require specific guidance based on their business practices

Details of Routt County Public Health Order #3

- Requires site mitigation plan for every business, non-profit, etc.
- Employees and customers must wear face coverings in business settings
- Must incorporate social distancing of six feet; exceptions and clarifications for certain businesses
- The order is in effect for 30 days – April 27 through May 27, 2020 and may be rescinded earlier or extended based on local conditions

Commissioner Monger commented on the affirmative vote of amending Public Health Order #3, “This is a good opportunity of how we can move on to get businesses to start opening and at the same time promote the safety, health, and welfare of our community. In a perfect world, we would have all the state and local public health orders in one place, but if we have to amend it, we will.”

During the Commissioners’ regular Board meeting, the Routt County Commissioners urged everyone in Routt County to take the personal pledge and follow “The Five Commitments of Containment:”

- I will stay home when I can and maintain 6 feet of physical distance
- I will wash my hands often
- I will cover my nose and mouth in public
- I will stay home when I am sick
- I will get tested immediately if I have symptoms

Moving forward with these new Orders, Commissioner Melton said, “I am fully supportive of these types of mitigation efforts for businesses to be able to reopen. However, in order for us to be successful, we need to place a huge importance on personal responsibility to slow the spread of the virus. We need to wear facemasks, practice social distancing, wash our hands often, stay home when we are sick, and get tested if we have symptoms so we don’t have to go back to a stay at home situation. The new state and local Public Health Orders allow people to go back to work safely.”

State and Routt County Public Health Orders can be found here:

<https://www.covid19routtcounty.com/public-health-orders>.

The Routt County dashboard on cases can be found at [covid19routtcounty.com](https://www.covid19routtcounty.com) and important information can be received by following Routt County on Facebook and Instagram. Questions can also be directed to the Routt County help line at 970-871-8444.

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