



Mesa County Moves Into Phase 2 Reopening

Mesa County Public Health (MCPH) has issued a public health order effective 12:01 a.m. on May 24, 2020, asking facilities, establishments, and activities interested in opening or expanding operations to submit an application outlining measures to ensure health and safety.

Mesa County Public Health (MCPH) continues to lead the way in reopening and was granted another variance from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) to continue to reopen businesses with health and safety as a major focus. The Mesa County Board of Public Health approved Public Health Order 2020-03, Safer at Home - Phase 2, effective as of 12:01 a.m. May 24, 2020.

"This is the logical next step," Jeff Kuhr, Mesa County Public Health Executive Director said. Businesses looking to expand operations or to reopen are asked to complete an online application to show they have social distancing, cleaning procedures, and other health and safety practices in place. The steps outlined in the application help businesses think through best practices for implementation. The form, available on the MCPH website, can be completed at the convenience of business owners or managers.

This process allows businesses to implement health and safety procedures in their establishment, instead of MCPH deciding which specific industry or activity should open or remain closed. "While some restrictions remain, I feel good about this step and I am confident our businesses and residents will continue to stay the course," Kuhr added.

MCPH officials note the importance of residents continuing to meet social distancing requirements. All community members are strongly encouraged to read the entire public health order and outlined guidelines. In summary, changes include, but are not limited to:

Allows facilities and establishments to open at or expand up to 50% capacity not to exceed more than 175 people in a confined indoor space for critical and noncritical businesses, including houses of worship after submission of an application to Mesa County Public Health.

Allows gatherings of up to 50 people. Six feet of distance will still be required between non-household members.

Allows local and personal recreation activities as long as they are able to follow specific health and safety measures.

Continues requirements for people who are sick and for people who have been exposed to someone who is sick and vulnerable populations.

Through the application, businesses will affirm the ability to follow specific health and safety measures.