

Washington County Mitigation and Containment Information Plan

Purpose

In order to contain current and future surge levels of disease, the Washington County Mitigation and Containment Plan includes assurance of community testing, case investigation and contact tracing will be done by the Colorado Health Department, isolation, quarantine, and outbreak response. Washington County has a mitigation framework currently in place which includes:

- Washington County will work with the Northeastern Health Department to obtain testing once a week for our community.
- Outreach to our community members by sectors, including weekly BOCC meeting with updates from the OEM
- Strong engagement watching and monitoring the surrounding hospital systems for COVID-19 specific data.
- Strong engagement and collaboration with the Northeast Colorado Health Department (NCHD) monitoring COVID-19 contract tracing specific data.

Nothing in this pending plan prohibit a local governing municipality from enacting more proactive standards, including but not limited to stay at home orders or additional protective measures.

Community Goals

1. Identify and contain the spread of COVID-19 through aggressive contact tracing by Colorado Health Department, isolation and quarantine of affected community members, active monitoring, increased testing capacity, and strong public messaging.
2. Mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 on our healthcare systems through strong partnerships with health agencies and hospitals, the evaluation of early warning indicators to determine impacts, and by providing logistical support for the care of impacted people.
3. Provide guidance to the community on the latest local and state public health orders.

Continuous numbers monitoring will be tracked from OEM, Commissioners and Administrators from County and Town origins. A solid communication stream will remain open to the Northeast Colorado Health Department and the flow of information will be relayed in both directions. Education information will continue to be shared within the County. Websites and Facebook pages will be utilized as much as possible for dissemination of information. All County residents are encouraged to remain vigilant as we enter into the fall and winter months of which have their own needs as far as illnesses and wellness care.

Disease Transmission is Under Control

1. Pursuant to the Governor's Safer at Home Executive Order on April 26, 2020, any County wishing to apply for local variance from part or all of the order, must certify that the County has had low case counts of COVID-19 cases or can document fourteen (14) consecutive days of declining COVID-19 cases.
2. There are insufficient Health System Capabilities within Washington County. We do not have any hospitals within the County boundaries. We rely on communications with the 4 hospitals in our area that are utilized by our residents - Sterling Regional Med Center, Yuma District Hospital, East Morgan County Hospital, and Colorado Plains Medical Center. Emergency utilization is also available per Med Evac 3, at our local airport in Akron. On October 6th,

Washington County's positivity rate was 4.06% and on November 8th the positivity rate was 13.3%. Our frustration comes from being a large county and not being able to have information pertinent to specific locations of positive tests. We don't feel the entire County should have to be scrutinized if positive tests are more in a specific area. Also, we have around 100 tests out since 11/02/2020 at the lab awaiting process. We understand that everyone is working extra on this but how can you hold the county accountable when all the information is not current and up to date? What measures can be done at the Colorado Health Department to ensure they have up to date information before making such an impact on our county and the residents of Washington County? We do have at least 30 days PPE and continue to stock pile supplies as they are found. Our testing procedures have been mainly deep nasal swabs, If we can locate oral swabs, the testing process will more highly utilized since a number of residents state they will not have a deep nasal swab done.

3. Preventive Measures have been established as COVID-19 guidelines have been posted per the Governors public health orders and CDPHE and CDC. Guidelines addressing prevention have been written and distributed to the County's residents, workplaces, and other essential places. The County's COVID-19 website will refer persons to the Northeast Colorado Health Department site

PUBLIC HEALTH RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ALL RESIDENTS OF Washington County

1. Maintain physical distancing (6 feet)
2. Adults 65 years and older and high-risk populations should limit public interactions and stay at home as much as possible
3. Use cloth face coverings for interactions where physical distancing is not possible or when entering public places
4. People with symptoms should stay home and should not go to work
5. Wash hands frequently with soap and water. If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.

The determination whether the social distancing policies are working will be based on:

1. Keeping the proportion of positive tests to less than 5% positivity of overall tests conducted within a 14 days period
2. Staying below threshold limits for hospitalizations makes it more imperative to maintain communications with our area transport hospitals. It may become necessary to reissue local Stay at Home orders. It is vital that everyone participate in this effort.

GUIDELINES FOR ALL SECTORS:

1. Perform frequent environmental cleaning and disinfection (concentrate on high touch surfaces like tables, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, desks, phones, keyboards, toilets, faucets, sinks, etc.) a. Healthcare facilities b. Postmortem care facilities c. Other, non-healthcare facilities
2. Employees and contracted workers whose duties include close contact with members of the

- public shall wear a non-medical cloth face covering over the nose and mouth
3. Employees are encouraged to wear a non-medical cloth face covering over the nose and mouth while working, except where doing so would inhibit the individual's health. Such individuals may be assigned to jobs where they do not have contact with the public or other employees.
 4. Maintain at least six feet distance from each other
 5. Monitor workforce for compatible symptoms

Public Gatherings:

a. Allow public gatherings as set by CDPHE Guidelines or variances in place. b. Maintain at least six feet distance from each other. c. No festivals or other large gatherings at this time that do not meet local guidelines as set by the Governor and CDPHE. d. Large venues shall be evaluated per guidelines or variances in place (event centers, sporting event facilities, etc.)

Offices

a. Encourage telework, wherever possible b. Maintain at least six feet distance from customers and each other c. Desks, workstations, and other work areas should be separated by at least six feet. If fixed stations exist, separate employees or clients by leaving one station in between. Workstations separated by walls that are six feet or higher can remain as they are d. Implement or maintain physical barriers for high-contact settings (e.g. reception areas) e. Implement physical distance protocols in common areas (separate tables and chairs by at least six feet) f. Place markings on the floor to maintain at least six feet distance in customer lines; try to establish one-way passage as much as possible g. Consider accommodations for high-risk individuals or populations h. Employees and contracted workers whose duties include close contact with members of the public shall wear a non-medical cloth face covering over the nose and mouth i. All employees are encouraged to wear a non-medical cloth face covering over the nose and mouth while working, except where doing so would inhibit the individual's health

Retail and personal services (as applicable)

a. Critical businesses that were open under the stay at home order should maintain the same precautions and physical distancing practices b. As much as possible, continue sit down and curbside delivery as the restaurant guideline c. Personal services (salons, tattoo parlors, dog grooming, etc.) and non-critical will remain open under the proper guidelines. d. Spread people out so there is at least six feet distance between individuals throughout e. Separate workstations (tables, chairs, etc.) by six feet. If fixed stations exist, separate clients by leaving one station in between. Workstations separated by walls that are six feet or higher can remain as they are f. Implement or continue early opening for high-risk individuals e. Implement or maintain physical barriers for high-contact settings (e.g. cashiers) g. Implement or maintain one-way entry/exit and aisles h. Employees and contracted workers whose duties include close contact with members of the public shall wear a non-medical cloth face covering over the nose and mouth i. stagger shifts if feasible to decrease the number of employees at the business j. Maintain at least six feet physical distancing in waiting areas j. Place markings on the floor to maintain at least six feet distance in customer lines k. Implement touchless payment methods when possible l. Encourage the public to wear cloth face coverings to enter the businesses

Restaurants/Bars

a. Continuing takeout and delivery with sit down as per restaurant guidelines b. Spread people/tables out so there is at least six feet distance between individuals throughout c. Limited "bar" service; clients can only be served at tables d. Place markings on the floor to maintain at least six feet distance in customer

lines e. Implement touchless payment methods when possible g. Implement or maintain physical barriers for high-contact settings (e.g. cashiers) f. Stagger shifts if feasible to decrease employee numbers at the business g. In-room dining shall follow strict physical distancing h. Group parties should be limited to no more than six people. People within a party should be family members or acquaintances who have previously been in contact with each other and there is limited risk of disease transmission i. Do not allow public sharing of utensils or condiments j. Buffets shall have an employee serving the food, no self-serving allowed k. Self-serving stations shall remain closed (drinking stations, bulk dry, etc.) l. Maintain physical distancing (six feet) in waiting areas m. Employees and contracted workers whose duties include close contact with members of the public shall wear a non-medical cloth face covering over the nose and mouth and gloves at all times n. Encourage the public to wear cloth face coverings to enter the businesses o. Allow business ability to require clients to wear cloth face coverings/gloves

Elective, Medical and Health Services

a. Visitation to senior living facilities is prohibited at this time b. Elective health services can reopen with while adhering to the following precautions i. Use adequate PPE that protects the provider and the client ii. Implement one-way entry/exit and aisles iii. Use an appointment system to minimize the time in waiting rooms IV. Maintain physical distancing (six feet) in waiting rooms v. Implement or maintain physical barriers for high-contact settings (e.g. front desk) vi. Encourage the public to wear cloth face coverings to enter the businesses vii. Employees and contracted workers (other than providers) whose duties include close contact with members of the public shall wear a nonmedical cloth face covering over the nose and mouth

Recreation

a. Maintain physical distancing in outdoor settings (6ft while hiking/walking, 15ft while running ,biking, fishing, hunting, etc.) b. Open outdoor recreation facilities where adequate controls can be implemented to ensure physical distancing (six feet) c. Limit public gatherings to Governor and CDPHE guidelines. d. Camping should be limited to one family per campsite e. No group camping allowed, in individual campsites or group campsites f. Playground equipment may be utilized as set per Governor and CDPHE guidelines g. Perform frequent cleaning and disinfection of bathrooms and high-touch surfaces

Education

a. Limited in-person learning for specific settings (e.g. technical college) b. Limit classrooms to proper guidelines as set per Department of Education, Governor and CDPHE c. Maintain at least six feet distance from each other d. Higher education, K-12, and organized youth activities shall remain under proper guidelines d. Childcare providers can reopen with the following precautions e. Perform frequent environmental cleaning and disinfection (concentrate on high touch surfaces like playgrounds, toys, tables, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, desks, phones, keyboards, toilets, faucets, sinks, etc.) ii. All employees shall wear a non-medical cloth face covering over the nose and mouth while working with children iii. Maintain at least six feet distance from coworkers IV. Implement physical distance protocols in common areas (separate tables and chairs by at least six feet) v. Symptomatic children should be excluded from care vi. To the extent possible, limit the sharing of utensils, toys, and classroom materials vii. To the extent possible, limit shared spaces to one classroom at the time (e.g. playgrounds)

Real Estate

a. In-person home showings can resume as set per State guidelines b. Maintain at least six feet distance from customers and each other c. Cloth face coverings are highly encouraged d. Prior to a showing, ensure clients are not experiencing respiratory symptoms e. Open houses are prohibited at this time

Places of worship

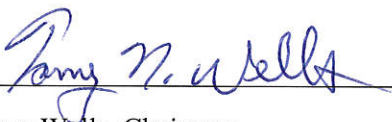
a. encourage online or drive in type settings if local numbers climb or a specific church is identified as outbreak b. When offering on-site services, implement the following restrictions: i. Operate with strict physical distancing practices ii. Spread people out so there is at least six feet distance between families throughout iii. Place markings on the floor to maintain at least six feet distance where lines form iv. Implement or maintain one-way entry/exit and aisles v. Implement touchless offering options as much as possible vi. Encourage employees and the public to wear cloth face coverings vii. Discourage people from attending if they are experiencing any symptoms viii. Perform frequent cleaning and disinfection of bathrooms and high touch surfaces

Gyms

a. Can operate IF the following physical distancing and cleaning practices are possible i. The gym shall adhere to State set guidelines, including any classes occurring, at one time ii. Spread people out so there is at least fifteen feet distance between individuals throughout iii. Participants may only use the same piece of equipment for the entire workout/class, no switching with other participants until the equipment can be cleaned iv. Any classes are should be staggered, if possible v. The Gyms shall keep a client log, maintaining any participants name and contact and when the facility was used, information until such time is no longer necessary vi. It is recommended that all gym staff and participants where a mask while at the gym

The Board of County Commissioners voted on November 9, 2020 to accept the Washington County Mitigation and Containment Information Plan and authorize the chairman to sign.

WASHINGTON COUNTY, COLORADO



Tony Wells, Chairman

ATTEST:



Annie Kuntz, County Clerk

