

**District, County, and Municipal Courts
Approved Variance to Colorado Public Health Order 20-28- June 11, 2020**

Variance

The state of Colorado has issued a variance approval to Public Health Order 20-28. This variance approval is in effect until the final expiration of the PHO 20-28. District, County and Municipal Courts may operate under the following guidelines:

- Courts have been authorized to function as a critical government function under the Safer at Home orders.
- In order to achieve 6ft social distancing, the limit is 50% of the posted occupancy code limit ensuring a minimum of 28 square feet per person not to exceed more than 100 people at any given time in a single courtroom.
- Maintain an active roster for the past 30 days by time and date of all visitors, attorneys, and staff who are present in the courtroom.
- Increase cleaning of high-touch surfaces between trials
- Restrict visitors to the courtroom to one visitor per defendant
- Make hand sanitizer available at the entrance to the courtroom
- Restrict gatherings/ socializing activities within the courthouse and disperse crowds if they form
- Increase cleaning of restroom facilities
- All visitors, jurors, and participants should be screened for COVID-19 symptoms before entering the facility. Anyone who is symptomatic must be excluded.
- All visitors, jurors, and participants must wear a mask or face covering while in the courtroom facility.
- All employees must follow the current public health orders regarding wearing a mask or face covering.
- Employees who are symptomatic must be excluded from the workplace and required to isolate according to the current CDC guidelines (currently 10 days). They should be encouraged to get tested for COVID-19 either through a local provider or community-wide testing site.
- In all other respects, the requirements of the Safer at Home Public Health Order 20-28, as amended, remain in effect for Pueblo County.

Note: If the current public health order or subsequent amendments to that order should change in which more restrictions are lifted, courts may immediately begin to modify their operations to be in compliance with the most recent public health order.

Outbreaks

Pueblo County has identified the following specific data triggers related to outbreaks connected to courts:

- If two or more staff or members/ attendees who test positive within 14 days and the outbreak is determined to be connected or possibly connected to their attendance or work at the courts, the courts must return to the requirements of the current State public health order unless the following action is taken:
 - Close the courtroom facility to the public for 72 hours,
 - Deep clean facilities,
 - Notify community of outbreak,
 - Provide visitor and staff list to public health for case investigation and contact tracing.

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- Work with the Pueblo Department of Public Health and Environment regarding plans to reopen.
- If multiple outbreaks occur at the courtroom facility; return to the requirements of the current State public health order unless the following action is taken:
 - Close courtroom facility for 7 days
 - Deep clean common areas and facilities
 - Notify the community of the outbreaks
 - Provide visitor and staff list to public health for case investigation and contact tracing
 - Work with the Pueblo Department of Public Health and Environment regarding plans to reopen.

Variance Alteration and Rescission

- If Pueblo County reports more than 84 new COVID-19 cases in a two-week period (2-week incidence of 51 per 100,000) has occurred, the Pueblo Department of Public Health will initiate the following alteration process:
 - Implement a mitigation plan for 2 weeks to try to restore virus transmission levels to baseline under which the variance was approved.
 - If after 2 weeks the levels are not restored, then the capacity limits are automatically adjusted to reflect the CDPHE guidelines.
- The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and the Pueblo Department of Public Health and Environment reserve the right to modify or rescind this variance approval as circumstances warrant.

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