

Indoor Malls

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. Retailers in indoor malls or indoor markets with a separate exterior entrance may operate per the requirements of non-critical retail in Appendix A of Public Health Order 20-28. For all other retailers in the indoor mall or market, the facility management must submit a plan to the Pueblo Department of Public Health and Environment (PDPHE) for review to address the criteria below:

- Indoor common areas must not exceed 50% of occupancy as defined by the local fire authority.
- In order to achieve 6 feet 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 confined indoor space, and 175 people in any outdoor setting.
- Increased cleaning and disinfecting of all high-touch surfaces and restrooms and posting signs to ensure physical/social distancing in restrooms.
- Require all employees and patrons to wear face coverings or masks.
- Removal or blocking off any portions of the mall that encourages group gatherings. Seating areas, play areas, coin operated rides, camera booths, etc. in the common area shall be closed. Seating for the food court is allowed but must be reduced in order to ensure seating meets social distancing requirements of the current public health order.
- On-premise consumption of food and beverages is allowed in compliance with the current public health order for Restaurants.
- Employee symptom screening shall occur upon arrival to work, and face coverings are required for all staff. Employees who are symptomatic must be excluded from the workplace and required to isolate for 10 days. They should be encouraged to get tested for COVID-19 either through a local provider or Pueblo County's community wide testing.
- The various business types within the indoor mall must comply with the requirements for each business sector addressed in the current public health order.
- Signs shall be posted throughout the indoor mall on requirements for physical/social distancing.
- Placing queue markers at store entrances and tape or other physical/social distancing markers on the floors in mall common areas, inside stores, and on sidewalks outside public entrances.
- Ensure that each of the retailers inside the mall maintain 50% capacity as defined by local fire authorities and physical/social distancing between customers and employees.
- Having mall staff or security officers closely monitor the flow of pedestrians in common areas and ask groups that might gather in those areas to disperse.
- Making disinfectant wipes available near shopping carts and baskets; or assigning employees to regularly disinfect cars and baskets. Making hand sanitizer available at entrances and high-traffic areas.
- 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, indoor malls may immediately begin to modify their operations to be in compliance with the most recent public health order.

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Outbreaks

Pueblo County has identified the following specific data triggers related to outbreaks connected to specific indoor malls or marketplaces:

- If 2 or more staff or public test positive within 14 days and the outbreak is determined to be connected or possibly connected to their attendance or work at the indoor mall or market place, the indoor mall or marketplace must return to the requirements of the current State public health order unless the following action is taken:
 - Close place of indoor mall, marketplace or business to public for 72 hours.
 - Deep clean facilities.
 - Notify public of outbreak.
 - Provide participant list to the Pueblo Department of Public Health and Environment (PDPHE) for case investigation and contact tracing.
 - Work with the PDPHE regarding plans to reopen.
- If multiple outbreaks occur at the indoor malls, marketplace or business it must return to the requirements of the current State public health order unless the following action is taken:
 - Close indoor mall, marketplace or business for 7 days.
 - Deep clean common areas and facilities.
 - Notify the public of the outbreak.
 - Provide participant list to PDPHE for case investigation and contact tracing.
 - Work with the PDPHE regarding plans to reopen.

Variance Alteration and Rescission

- If Pueblo County reports more than 84 new COVID-19 cases in a 2-week period (2-week incidence of 51 per 100,000) has occurred, the PDPHE 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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