

Libraries

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. Libraries that believe they can operate safely under the current guidance can submit a plan for review and approval to the Pueblo Department of Public Health and Environment that demonstrates their ability to meet:

- 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 confined indoor space, and 175 people in any outdoor setting.
- Limit computer usage to members from a single family at any one time. Maintain at least 6 feet of physical distance between active computer stations. Wipe down computer keyboards, screens and mouse components after each usage. Computers will be made available by reservation only.
- Offer on-line checkout and payment options
- Provide external book or materials return
- Increase cleaning and sanitation especially of high-touch surfaces and restroom facilities.
- Implement a quarantine process for returned materials of at least 72 hours before being placed back into the overall collection or circulation
- Provide staff or volunteers to provide increased cleaning of surfaces, to monitor patrons and to disperse crowds
- All patrons must register with contact information and facility must maintain the list for 30 days
- Limit browsing for books or materials in the library to 30 minutes per patron.
- Use of special meeting rooms must follow guidelines of the current state public health orders
- Food sales and concessions must comply with all current state public health orders and subsequent amendments
- All visitors and participants should be screened for symptoms before entering the facility. Anyone who is symptomatic must be excluded.
- All visitors must wear a face mask or face covering while inside the library building(s).
- All staff must follow the current public health orders regarding wearing of face coverings or masks.
- Employees who are symptomatic must be excluded from the workplace and required to isolate according to the current CDC guidance (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, libraries 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 libraries

- 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 library(ies), the library must return to the requirements of the current State public health order unless the following action is taken:
 - Close library facility to the public for 72 hours,
 - Deep clean facilities,
 - Notify community of outbreak,
 - Provide patron 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.
- If multiple outbreaks occur at a library facility, return to the requirements of the current State public health order unless the following action is taken:
 - Close place of worship for 7 days
 - Deep clean common areas and facilities
 - Notify the community of the outbreaks
 - Provide participant 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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