

### **Places of Worship**

**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. The variance for places of worship requires the following:

- 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. If the place of worship has multiple rooms, these limits apply to each room.
- Places of worship that expect to exceed 50 people at any given time in a confined indoor space should submit a written safety plan to the Pueblo Department of Public Health and Environment that describes how social distancing, cleaning protocols, and other requirements of the Public Health order 20-28 and its subsequent amendments will be addressed.
- Participants and volunteers must be asked whether they have COVID-19 symptoms at the door and must be excluded from the place of worship if symptomatic.
- Participants and volunteers must wear a face covering both when entering and while present in places of worship. Staff are required to follow the Safer at Home orders regarding wearing masks.
- Employees must be screened for symptoms each day before beginning work.
- 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 Pueblo County's community wide testing.
- Clean and disinfect bathrooms and high contact surface areas daily and between services and ensure hand washing supplies are available.
- Places of worship are encouraged to have participants register with contact information and keep such information for 30 days.
- Implement procedures to maintain social/physical distancing by placing markings on the floor to maintain at least six feet distance where lines form, creating one-way entry/exit and aisles. Guests should maintain at least 6 feet of distance while seated. Family units may sit together.
- Excuse services by rows, discourage gatherings before and after church services.
- Church pot-luck meals, self-service buffets and meal preparation activities that are generated by church members are not allowed. Catering for small events is allowed if the caterer serves the food.
- 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, places of worship 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 specific places of worship:

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- 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 place of worship, the place of worship must return to the requirements of the current State public health order unless the following action is taken:
  - Close place of worship to public for 72 hours,
  - deep clean facilities,
  - notify congregation 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 place of worship, the place of worship must 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 congregation of the outbreaks
  - Provide participant list to public health 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 two-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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