

NOTICE OF RESCISSION

Of the Pueblo Department of Public Health and Environment (PDPHE)

1st Revised Public Health Order Requiring Facial Coverings Indoors for All Individuals Aged 2 and Older in Childcare Facilities, Youth Camps, and PK-12 School Settings.

Due to improving COVID-19 conditions in Pueblo County including declining case numbers, hospitalizations, and deaths, the PDPHE 1st Revised Public Health Order enacted on January 26, 2022 is rescinded in its entirety effective March 8, 2022, at 12:01 AM.

Current State:

- Pueblo County COVID-19 case numbers, hospitalizations, and deaths continue in a downward trend.
 - The current case rate in Pueblo County is 26.7 cases per 100,000 in the past 7 days.
 - The one-week average positivity is 2.8%.
 - Wastewater sampling results (a leading indicator) also suggest a downward trend of infections in Pueblo County.
 - COVID related deaths have dropped 69% since January 2022.
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Guidance
 - As of February 25, 2022, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention updated its community framework to determine the level of COVID-19 in the community. The new framework rates counties as “low,” “medium,” or “high” based on their case numbers and the strain on the hospitals and healthcare system. Pueblo County’s current rating is “low.” Universal masking is not indicated at the low level.

Recommendations:

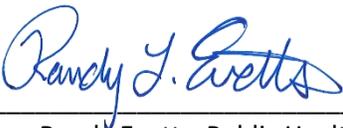
Notwithstanding the rescission of the January 26, 2022, Public Health Order and consistent with current CDC guidance, PDPHE strongly recommends the following:

- All individuals should get up to date on the COVID-19 vaccines including boosters. COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective in reducing risks of serious illness, hospitalizations, and death.
- Students or staff members who are immunocompromised, taking immuno-suppressive medications, or are at high risk due to underlying conditions, are advised to continue wearing masks indoors while around others or in close proximity to others.
- Each family and individual will need to evaluate their own risk tolerance regarding masking. The CDC has a [list of conditions](#) that put an individual at high risk of severe disease, illness, and death. Please be respectful and courteous to others. Each family and individual will need to evaluate their own risk tolerance regarding masking.
- PDPHE recommends families and schools follow the CDC guidance for masking based on the community COVID-19 levels. At the “high” level, universal masking is advised. The CDC Community COVID-19 levels can be found at www.CDC.gov.
- No single disease mitigation strategy is sufficient by itself. Schools are strongly encouraged to develop a COVID-19 mitigation plan and implement layered mitigation strategies to minimize disease transmission within schools. Mitigation strategies can be organized into the following categories: promoting behaviors that prevent spread; maintaining healthy environments; maintaining healthy operations; and preparing for when someone gets sick. In addition to consistent and correct mask use, the CDC and PDPHE recommend the following:
 - Maintain at least 3 feet of physical distance between students within classrooms
 - Cohorting- small groups of students stay together throughout the school day
 - Limiting numbers gathered at the same time (e.g., lunch, PE, assemblies)

- Screening testing to promptly identify cases, clusters and outbreaks
 - Improving ventilation and air filtration
 - Promoting regular hand-washing and respiratory etiquette
 - Students and staff members should stay home when sick and get tested before returning. The availability of at-home rapid tests allows individuals to isolate quickly to avoid infecting others. The CDC advises those who have tested positive, or are experiencing COVID-like symptoms, remain home and away from others for at least 5 days after the start of symptoms. To protect others, students and staff members should continue to wear a mask while in public for days 6-10 of the isolation period.
 - Contact tracing in combination with quarantine and isolation.
 - Frequent cleaning and disinfection. Use caution when using chemicals and disinfectants and follow the directions regarding dilution and appropriate use.
 - Encourage outdoor activities rather than indoor activities when weather allows.
 - Symptom Checking - Common COVID systems include fever or chills, persistent cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headaches, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, or diarrhea.
 - Vaccination.
- PK-12 schools should continue to follow all state and federal laws and public health orders. Although the PDPHE 1st Revised Public Health Order dated January 26, 2022 is rescinded, schools or school districts may impose their own policies and procedures regarding required masks or other mitigation efforts.

PDPHE will continue to evaluate and monitor the prevalence and risk of COVID-19 in Pueblo County and if necessary, will issue updated public health advisories and or public health orders accordingly.

Issued at 5:00 PM on March 7, 2022.

By: 

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