COLORADO ACTS QUICKLY ON MANDATORY COVID-19 RULES

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Richard Cauchi . State Health Policy Advisor; retired state legislatures director

STAY HOME COLORADO

MARCH 26 - APRIL 11*

OPEN:

- Grocery stores
- Banks
- Pharmacies
- Bars and restaurants (takeout and delivery only)
- Gas stations
- Liquor stores
- News organizations
- Post offices
- Cannabis stores
- Police stations
- Fire stations.
- Hospitals, clinics and healthcare operations
- Garbage/sanitation
- Public benefits (i.e. SNAP, Medicaid) hotlines
- Pet supply stores and veterinary services

CLOSED:**

- Malls
- Entertainment and sports venues
- Gyms
- Dance studios
- Barbershops
- Hair and nail salons
- Spas
- Tattoo parlors
- Movie theaters
- Amusement parks
- Arcades
- Bowling alleys
- Museums
- Campgrounds
- Community pools
- Skate parks
- Playgrounds

Note:
*: Date subject to change
**: Not a complete list of closures

#DoingMyPartCO

COLORADO | GOVERNOR JARED POLIS

(With updates March 30 p.m.) Despite some positive actions by Congress, the lack of any nationwide "Stay at Home" orders led to Colorado's fast and successful action using county and then statewide binding Executive Orders, specifying restrictions and mandatory closures, affecting virtually all of the 5.8 million residents. The terms of these orders include a practical, collaborative and human side, not just a punitive or law-enforcement emphasis. Yet the combination of mandatory (6-foot) social distancing and "stay-at-home" descriptions are aimed

at dramatically reducing close contact (effective 6 am on Thursday, March 26). Setting the stage and providing a local model, [Denver](#) (March 24) and large metro-Denver counties ([Boulder](#), [Jefferson](#), [Arapahoe, Adams and Douglas](#), March 25) issued orders affecting 3,045,000 residents. Within 48 hours the [statewide Executive Order](#) and rules supplanted the 5-county orders, while incorporating more than 90 percent of the same requirements. (**a**)

In general "The Public Health Orders require that all people in each county stay at their place of residence, and that they make every effort possible to conduct only essential activities necessary to maintain health and well-being, such as getting groceries, obtaining medical supplies or medication, and/or engaging in outdoor activities like walking, hiking or running while following other social distancing practices."

Defining "Critical Business" - A new state form, *["Instructions for Critical Business Self-Certification](#)*" [PDF] is one good example of a practical solution to a potentially complex question. The exempt business category still specifies "Employers should find ways to allow employees to work from home as much as possible. State-wide compliance with Social Distancing Requirements is critical to prevent exponential spread of COVID-19. Employers should not take advantage of critical business functions to exempt more employees than are absolutely necessary to perform the critical operations needed for our State."

A sample of comments from in-state leaders:

Governor Polis held a [widely broadcast news conference](#) to describe the statewide order. Two days later, he noted, "The more non-compliance there is, the more people are not heeding the advice to stay at home, the longer and the more severe this crisis will be," Polis said. "We really hope that everybody sees this as an urgent competition to reduce your own interactions with others." The governor's most severe action, the statewide stay-at-home order issued this week, should ideally lead to 80% social distancing, he said. He did not offer death estimates at that level of distancing.

Boulder County Public Health executive director, Jeff Zayach, said "Scientific evidence shows that we must act now, at this stage of the COVID-19 emergency, in order to save lives in the long-run. It will give us the time we need to test comprehensively and to slow the spread of the virus to prevent our health care system from being overwhelmed,"

Dr. Mark B. Johnson, Jefferson County Public Health executive director noted, "This order will help protect everyone in our community by ensuring social distancing measures are followed. By taking this action now, we can start to [flatten the pandemic curve](#)."

The Colorado action was not unanimous: "Colorado Republicans denounce Polis' statewide stay-home order; Senators say they should have been consulted" was the headline in [The Denver Post](#) (3/28/2020). Their letter stated, "It is our sincere belief, Governor Polis, that your actions on Wednesday have potentially sown discord and fear in Coloradans that are seeking clarity from their elected officials at this time of despair."

Multi-Lingual Materials – Reflecting population diversity, the Colorado website includes an extensive series of 1-2-page flyers and facts sheets in [Spanish](#), [Chinese](#), [Vietnamese](#), and [Somali](#). A practical tip: These posted items also are available online in Google Docs format, allowing other jurisdictions out-of-state to put the information to use immediately.

Next Steps in States? As of this date (March 28) it is too early to calculate the long-term medical impact of these Colorado-based orders, guidelines and actions. New information, incidents and research may affect or even alter the population-wide orders and guidelines described here. Many medical experts now project the end date of April 11 will be extended by multiple weeks. However, the prompt and broad-based action by state and county governments in Colorado, supported by academic and medical institutions, is aimed at literally saving lives each day and in each city and town. It is shared here in a spirit of collaboration with the thousands of health experts,

providers and government agencies using the LinkedIn platform to share valued information and services on COVID-19. (**b**)

For comparison see New Jersey Governor's news conference of 3/30/2020. World Health Organization (WHO) global news conference, daily.
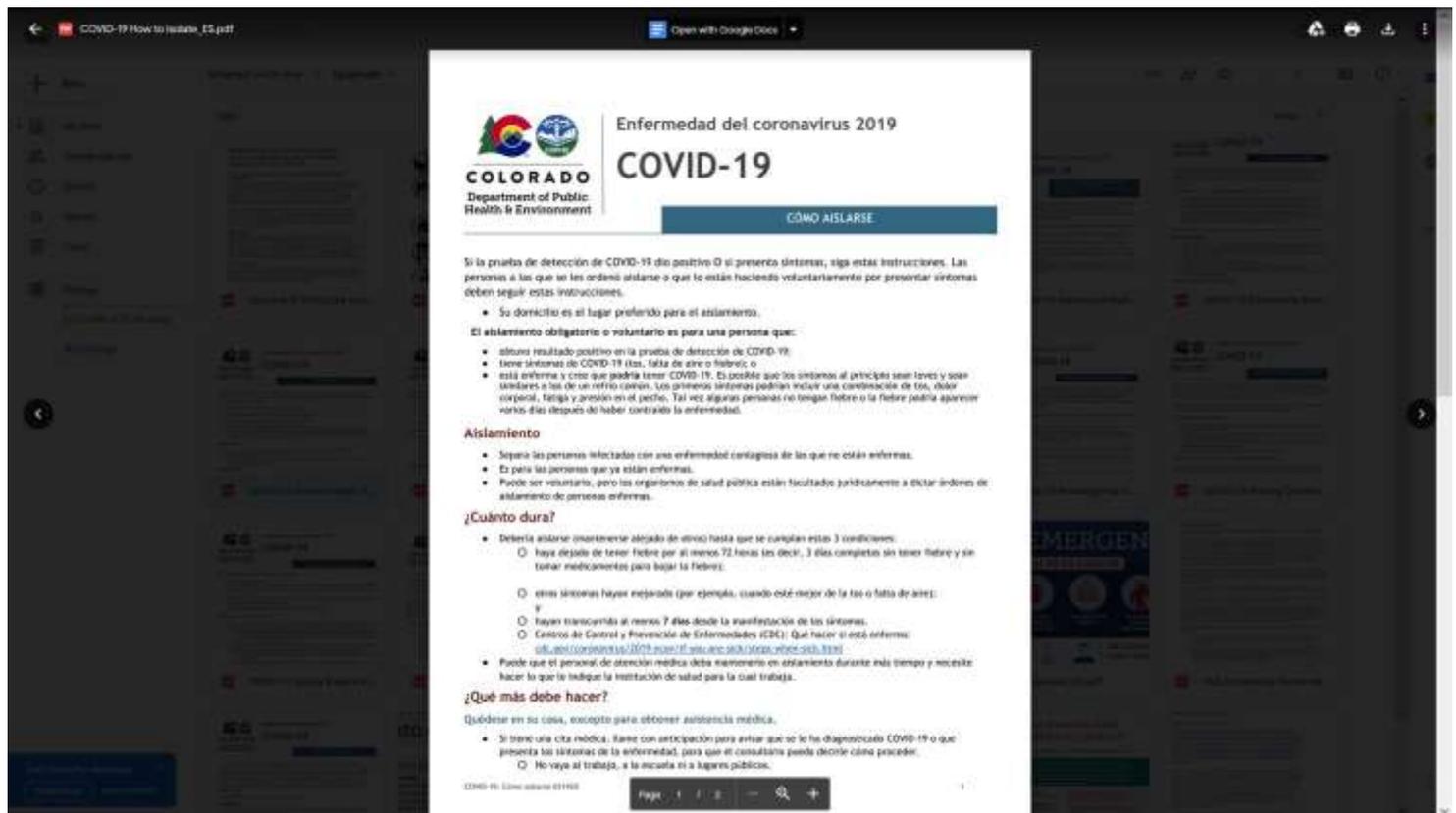
Update for March 30: Latest case data statistics on COVID-19 show Colorado has 2,307 cases, 326 hospitalized, in 46 counties, and 47 deaths. Also, 14,470 people tested and 10 outbreaks at residential and non-hospital health care facilities, with daily updates reported by the state of Colorado online. (**c**) For a national comparison, see the 50-state and county counts posted by the NY Times. On March 30, Gov. Polis gave a news conference update, with stats about shortages and reduced auto traffic - full video/audio is posted here.

Related Resources:

a - Colorado Orders Explained in Plain Language (HTML & PDF, on state website) -

b - LinkedIn on Coronavirus

c - Colorado Dept. of Health and Environment website updated 4 pm daily: https://covid19.colorado.gov/case-data

Author and Disclaimer: This article was written and posted by Richard Cauchi of Colorado Ideas 2.0, as an independent health policy advisor and consultant. It is intended as general information, especially for readers in other states or nations and includes direct links to the original sources. It is not intended as medical or legal advice, or as advocacy about best practices. The sources cited or quoted are not responsible for this article.

Article link: https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/colorado-acts-quickly-mandatory-covid-19-rules-richard-cauchi