

April 28, 2020

**SAN JUAN BASIN PUBLIC HEALTH DISTRICT  
LA PLATA COUNTY AND ARCHULETA COUNTY  
TO CONTROL THE SPREAD OF COVID-19 IN LA PLATA COUNTY: SAFER LA PLATA  
PUBLIC HEALTH ORDER SJB-20-01**

**I. FINDINGS**

**WHEREAS**, the State of Colorado and San Juan Basin Public Health District for Archuleta County, Colorado and La Plata County, Colorado (“Health District”) are working to stop the spread of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19); and

**WHEREAS**, on March 11, 2020, the Governor of the State of Colorado issued Executive Order D2020-003 declaring a state of disaster emergency due to the risk of spread of the novel coronavirus, now designated COVID-19 (“EO D2020-003”); and

**WHEREAS**, on March 16, 2020, the Executive Director and Health Officer of the Health District declared a local disaster emergency pursuant to C.R.S. § 24-33.5-701, et seq., §25-1-506 and §25-1-509 due to the risk of spread of COVID-19, which, on March 17, 2020, was extended by the Health District’s Board of Health, until rescinded by the Board, due to the risk of spread of COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 25, 2020, the Governor of the State of Colorado issued Executive Order D2020-017 (“EO 2020 017”) and the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment (“CDPHE”) issued Amended Public Health Order 20-24 (followed by an Updated Public Health Order 20-24 on March 26, 2020, Third Updated Public Health Order 20-24 on April 1, 2020, and Fourth Updated Public Health Order 20-24 on April 9, 2020) implementing stay at home requirements, which apply to all individuals and business in the State of Colorado, and on April 22, 2020 CDPHE issued Public Health Order 20-26 requiring employees of Critical Businesses or those performing Critical Government Functions who work in close proximity to other employees or with the public to wear face coverings and gloves in specified circumstances; and on April 26, 2020, the Governor of the State of Colorado issued Executive Orders D 2020 044 and D 2020 045 and on April 27, 2020 CDPHE issued Public Health Order 20-28 permitting the limited reopening of certain business operations and the limited recommencement of voluntary or elective and non-essential surgeries and procedures in the State of Colorado; and

**WHEREAS**, under Colorado Revised Statutes (C.R.S.) §25-1-506 and §25-1-508, the local Public Health Director has the duty to: 1) investigate and control the causes of epidemic or communicable diseases and conditions affecting public health; and 2) establish, maintain, and enforce isolation and quarantine, and in pursuit thereof, 3) exercise physical control over property and over the persons of the people within the Health District as the local Public Health Director may find necessary for the protection of the public health; and

**WHEREAS**, the virus that causes COVID-19 is a respiratory disease and can easily be spread through person-to-person contact, whether or not those persons are exhibiting symptoms, and the risk of transmission is higher when people are in close proximity; and

**WHEREAS**, as of April 27, 2020, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) has confirmed 13,879 cases of COVID-19 and 706 deaths within the State of Colorado and 61 and 8 cases in La Plata County and Archuleta County respectively, and in neighboring communities that have determined to maintain stay at home orders, San Juan County, New Mexico has 463 cases of COVID-19 and 35 deaths and the Navajo Nation has 1,716 cases of COVID-19 and 59 confirmed deaths; and

**WHEREAS**, it is in the interest of the businesses and residents of this Health District to have guidelines that consider interactions with neighboring jurisdictions, particularly given that many individuals travel across jurisdictional borders for work, recreation, and other purposes; and

**WHEREAS**, a substantial portion of the workforce in La Plata County lives in San Juan County, New Mexico and La Plata County businesses regularly serve customers living in San Juan County, New Mexico, but disease transmission conditions in Archuleta County are less substantially related to the number of cases in San Juan County, New Mexico and to travel across jurisdictional boundaries; and

**WHEREAS**, in the absence of immunization or specific treatment, the Health Officer has determined that control of the spread of COVID-19 requires expanded testing and case investigation capacity and additional disease mitigation requirements that apply to community gatherings and workplaces in La Plata County; and

**WHEREAS**, the health conditions that led to the issuance of Executive Order D 2020-024 and Public Health Order 20-24 have not fully abated in La Plata County, and the Health Officer has determined that certain reopening dates and requirements for workplaces specified in Executive Orders D 2020 044 and D 2020 045 and Public Health Order 20-28 are inadequate to control the spread of COVID-19 in La Plata County, Colorado, and the municipalities contained therein.

## **II. ORDER**

By this Order, the Health Officer of the Health District hereby amends and strengthens the requirements of Public Health Order (PHO) 20-28 as follows within La Plata County, the City of Durango, the Town of Bayfield and the Town of Ignacio (hereafter, “the Affected Area”). PHO 20-28 and its appendices apply unaltered in Archuleta County and the Town of Pagosa Springs.

Effective May 8, 2020, Non-Critical Retail businesses in the Affected Area may resume on-premises services and limited Personal Services may resume if they meet the requirements of PHO 20-28, section II.I and appendices B and D, as applicable, and if they self-certify to SJBPH that they have read and will comply with all requirements applicable to their type of business, on forms provided by SJBPH. Non-Critical Retail and Personal Services workplaces may not resume in-store sales and services until self-certification to SJBPH is complete as determined by SJBPH or its Health Officer.

Effective May 8, 2020, Non-Critical Office-Based Businesses in the Affected Area operating in an office and not a production environment, as defined in PHO 20-28 section III, may allow up to fifty (50) percent of their employees to conduct in-person work that takes place outside a private residence if they meet the requirements of PHO 20-28, section II.I and appendix C, as applicable, and if they self-certify to SJBPH that they have read and will comply with all requirements applicable to their type of workplace on forms provided by SJBPH. Non-Critical Office-Based Businesses may not allow employees on site in excess of those required for Minimum Basic Operations, as defined in PHO 20-24, as amended, until self-certification to SJBPH is complete as determined by the SJBPH or its Health Officer.

All Critical Businesses and workplaces in the Affected Area providing Critical Government Functions during the term of Executive Order D 2020 024 must self-certify to SJBPH that they meet the requirements of PHO 20-28 section II.I on forms provided, and determined complete, by SJBPH by May 8, 2020 prior to resuming operations.

All Field Services businesses in the Affected Area that resume operations prior to May 9, 2020 must self-certify to SJBPH that they meet the requirements of PHO 20-28, section II.I and appendix B, on forms provided by SJBPH, by May 8, 2020. All Field Services that resume operations after May 8, 2020 must self-certify the same to SJBPH on forms provided, and determined complete, by SJBPH prior to resuming operations.

All Non-Critical Retail businesses in the Affected Area that begin offering goods pursuant to the requirements of PHO 20-28 section II.D prior to May 9, 2020 must self-certify to SJBPH that they meet the requirements of PHO 20-28 section II.I and appendix A on forms provided, and determined complete, by SJBPH by May 8, 2020.

All employees of Non-Critical Businesses-Retail who work in close proximity to their employees or with the public shall wear a non-medical face covering to help prevent the spread of disease. All employees of Non-Critical Businesses-Retail who come into contact with customers or goods should wear gloves, if gloves are provided by their employer. All face covering and glove-wearing requirements that apply to employees of Critical Businesses by CDPHE's Public Health Order 20-26 are hereby applied to employees of Non-Critical Businesses-Retail.

All other requirements of PHO 20-28 apply unchanged La Plata County. The entirety of PHO 20-28 shall apply to Archuleta County.

This Health District's Face Covering Advisory of April 9, 2020, as supplement to abiding by all Executive Orders and Public Health Orders previously issued and adopted, urging our community members, whether an employee of a Critical Business, Governmental Function or a person on a Necessary Activity, to do their part to slow the spread of COVID-19 and to wear a Face Covering to every extent possible while in a Public Place also remains in effect as part of this Order.

If necessary to further protect individuals in the Health District, the Health Officer for the Health District may issue new orders and/or amend this current order.

This Order shall become effective at 12:01 a.m. on April 29, 2020, and will continue until 11:59 p.m. on May 8, 2020, unless extended, rescinded, suspended, or amended in writing.

ISSUED BY:



---

Liane Jollon,  
Executive Director and Health Officer  
San Juan Basin Public Health

ATTEST:

By *Sherri Dugdale*

Sherri Dugdale, Clerk to the Board