



# NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Updated Public Health Order Explained

Sterling, Colo. – April 6, 2020: An updated Public Health Order (PHO) implementing stay at home requirements was issued on Thursday, April 1, 2020. NCHD is actively providing information to reduce confusion around this PHO. The intent of this PHO is to minimize the number of people exposed to this virus in our communities and workplaces, and preserve critical emergency and healthcare capacity across the State of Colorado. There is scientific evidence that the most effective way to slow the spread of communicable diseases, such as COVID-19, is to limit interactions among people and increase distance between people in the work environment.

All individuals currently living within the State of Colorado are ordered to stay at home whenever possible and may only leave their residence to perform necessary activities.

**Necessary activities** include tasks necessary to a person's or family's health and safety, obtaining necessary services or supplies, engaging in outdoor activities or to perform work for a critical business or critical government function. When engaging in necessary activities, people are strongly encouraged to stay local. People who are sick are required to stay at their residence at all times except as necessary to seek medical care, and must not go to work, even for critical business.

All travel, including, but not limited to, travel by automobile or public transit, except for **necessary travel** is not allowed. People who have been identified as critical workers and need to travel for work purposes can use the “Fillable Critical Business Self-Certification” document provided as a business resource at <https://www.nchd.org/co>. This document is voluntary and not a requirement of the state public health order but can assist both public health and law enforcement to ensure compliance. NCHD strongly recommends all critical businesses download and complete the “Fillable Business Social Distancing Self-Certification” document as well and have this document available for review if asked by public health or law enforcement.

This order implements a fifty percent reduction in nonessential business, in-person work, and extreme social distancing. All businesses that are required to close down their in-person work under this Order may continue to carry out minimum basic operations defined as: a) maintain the value of the business’ inventory, ensure security, process payroll and employee benefits or related functions, and b) facilitate employees of business being able to continue to work remotely. Businesses that can continue to operate through work-at-home arrangements with their employees are encouraged to do so. To successfully contain the spread of this virus, all employers and individuals are required to practice social distancing requirements to the greatest extent possible.

There have been lots of questions and concerns about what is meant by “Critical Business”. Any business, regardless of its corporate structure, engaged primarily in any of the commercial, manufacturing, or service activities listed below, may continue to operate. The list includes healthcare operations, critical infrastructure, critical manufacturing, critical retail, and critical services, news media, financial and professional institutions, providers of basic necessities to economically disadvantaged populations, construction, defense, critical services necessary to maintain the safety, sanitation and critical operations of residences or other critical businesses, vendors that provide critical

services or products, including logistics and technology support, child care, educational institutions that provide critical services to students and the general public. For a complete list of businesses within each category you can go to <https://covid19.colorado.gov/stay-home-except-essential-needs>. Critical businesses are required to comply with guidance and directives for maintaining a clean and safe work environment issued by CDPHE and NCHD.

Currently, the United States has more confirmed cases than any other country in the world, including China. People want to know what to do and how to take control. The best way to do that is to follow the statewide stay-at-home public health order. We now have 39 cases in the six county region served by NCHD.

These are tough choices for businesses to make in order to abide by the intent and spirit of the law. Many businesses are being conscientious and abiding by the order, demonstrating their commitment to their communities. If you have a concern, you may submit a form at <https://www.nchd.org/co>. The intent of NCHD is to provide additional education to businesses that might not understand the order.

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