



# Chaffee County Public Health

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March 23, 2020

To All Chaffee County Businesses and Appropriate Parties:

To contain the COVID-19 pandemic and minimize the spread in Chaffee County, the Chaffee County Public Health Department has issued Public Health Order #2020—02 (“Order”). The Order prohibits certain businesses or activities within Chaffee County from operating until midnight April 30, 2020 or unless further extended. Specifically, the following are **prohibited** from operating:

- Any public or private mass gatherings greater than 10 people;
- Restaurants service (limited to only delivery and carry out services);
- All hotels, motels, short-term rental (less than 30 days such as VRBO/AIRBNB), B & B, lodges, retreats and similar rentals; and
- All businesses with a physical facility in the County and are not a defined Essential Businesses;

Essential Businesses are defined in the Order and include businesses that provide services and products **that are necessary to maintain the safety, sanitation, and essential needs of the public during this public health pandemic.**

Businesses that are Essential Businesses under the order are: government services, healthcare operations, electric/water/sanitation services, grocery stores, food cultivators, gas stations, feed/pet-supply stores, convenience stores, liquor stores, marijuana establishments, banks, news outlets, hardware stores, plumbers, electricians, broad band service providers, mail services, trash services, elder care and limited professional services such as legal and accounting services.

The County will enforce this Order against any non-compliant business or person through civil restraining orders, penalties, fines of up to \$5,000 and imprisonment in the County Jail for 18 months.

Please call Public Health at 719-530-2564 if you have questions about whether you are an Essential Business.

**Generally, if you have to ask whether your business is an “Essential Business” your business is probably NOT an Essential Business and must be closed.**

Chaffee County Public Health would ask the public to voluntarily cooperate with the Order and close all non-essential businesses, practice social distancing, limit social activities to ten or less people, to stay home, and to only visit Essential Businesses when necessary.

**If you would like to report a business, hotel, or short-term rental that is not in compliance with this Order please contact 719-530-2564.**

We understand this Order is challenging and difficult and comes with great personal and economic costs. We would not have implemented the Order if we did not believe COVID-19 posed a greater threat to our community’s health, safety and welfare. Chaffee County is a compassionate, strong and vibrant community, and if we work together, we can keep our communities safe for our families, friends and neighbors. We are all part of Chaffee County, let’s work together to do our part to beat COVID-19!

Sincerely,

Andrea Carlstrom, Chaffee County Public Health Director and COVID-19 Incident Command