

Community Leaders,

Analysse here with the Governor's Community Engagement team! In an effort to continue to provide you with an official update from the Governor's office, below includes some updates and information that the Governor provided yesterday. We appreciate your support in helping to spread these updates to your network.

Quick Links to Stay Up to Date

- [Governor's Facebook Page](#)
- [Covid19.colorado.gov](https://www.colorado.gov/covid19)
- [Stay At Home Guide](#)
- [Safer at Home FAQ](#)

Topline Update

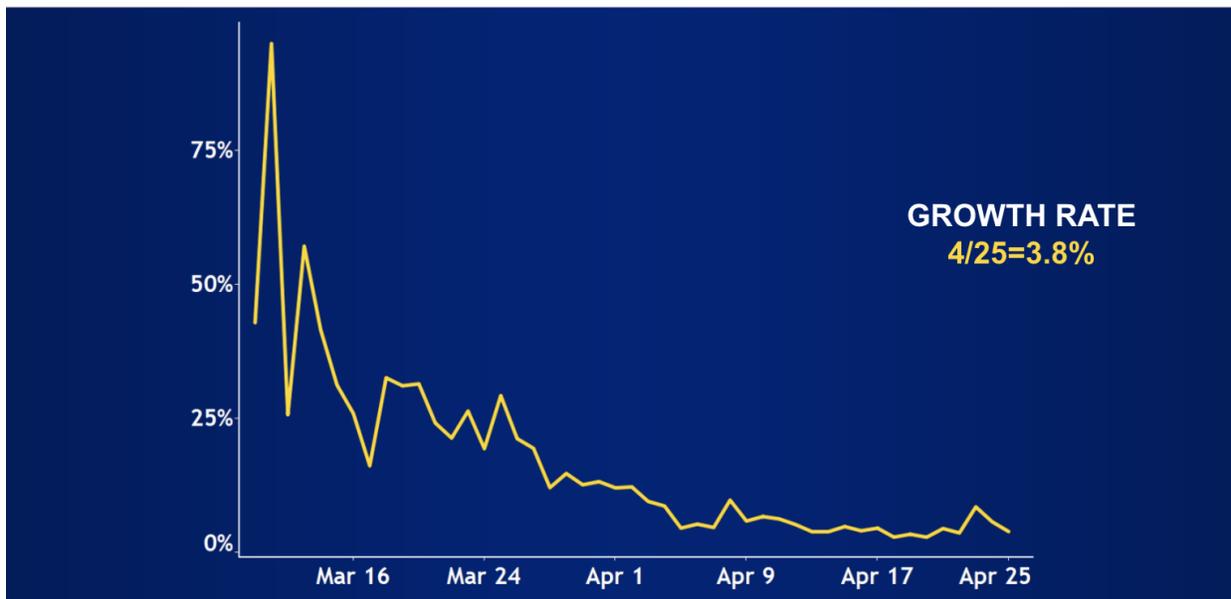
We currently have 13,441 cases, 680 deaths, and 2,438 hospitalizations out of 63,274 completed tests. We are thinking of these families and communities during these trying times.

This case data is broken down by various categories, is updated daily and can be found [here](#).

Why Lift Restrictions Now?

As you all know, yesterday was the last day of the statewide Stay at Home order. Today the Governor presented many of the details about what Safer at Home will mean for us here in Colorado. He presented a number of charts that illustrate the progress we have made as well as highlighted the threat and dangers ahead.

DAILY CASE GROWTH RATE

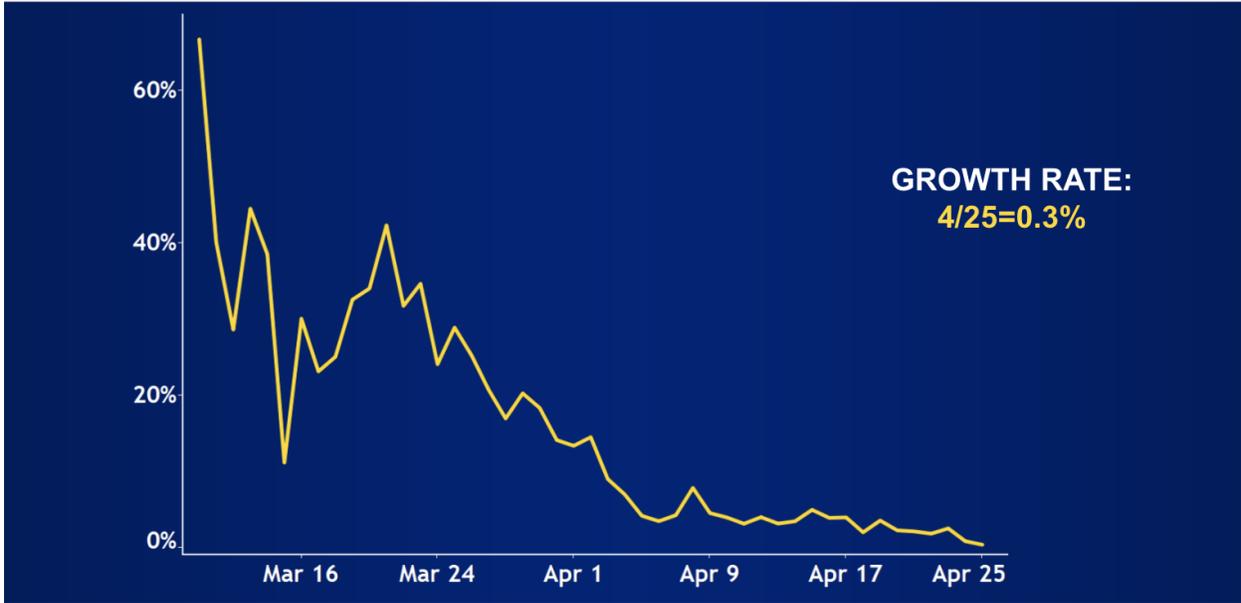


When we started out the rate of new cases every day was growing significantly and exponentially. Cases were doubling every 1.5 days -- a growth rate of 66%. As you can see the rate of new cases has been under 10% and has stayed under 10% for the past month. This is as a result of

the actions that we have taken in Colorado to stop the spread of the virus. Recently it's been around 5%. That shows a leveling off of new cases.

We see the same thing when it comes to hospitalizations. The daily hospitalization growth rate has been declining for a number of weeks and we have fewer hospitalizations now than we did a week ago and two weeks ago.

DAILY HOSPITALIZATION GROWTH RATE



Given that new cases and hospitalizations are declining, and given where we are in terms of building hospital capacity, our modeling suggests that the state can handle the caseload, and therefore we can begin taking steps to establish a way of life that is safe and allows more Coloradans to earn a living.

What this shows is that we have met the criteria for success that we laid out over a month ago when the Governor instituted the Stay-at-Home order. We have slowed the spread of the virus, bought time to build healthcare capacity, bought time to acquire more masks, gloves, ventilators, etc., and bought time to grow testing capacity & obtain supplies.

The goal was never to eradicate the virus and we know that is unrealistic. Extending a statewide stay at home order only delays the peak, it does not reduce the severity without ongoing interventions to continue to flatten the curve. We have flattened the curve and bought ourselves time to expand healthcare capacity and to craft a more sustainable way to manage the virus.

That is why we are moving to a new phase: [Safer at Home](#). View the Public Health Order [here](#).

PHASED IMPLEMENTATION OF SAFER AT HOME

APRIL 27	MAY 1	MAY 4
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Retail: Curbside pickup can begin• Real Estate: showings can resume• Elective procedures can resume	If implementing best practices: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Retail• Some personal Services	If implementing best practices: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Office work at reduced density

****UNLESS you live in a jurisdiction that is still under Stay at Home****

Safer at Home goals

Today the Governor laid out the goals of the “Safer at Home” phase. They are:

- Manage the spread;
- Provide access to world-class health care for every Coloradan that gets sick;
- Find a more sustainable way to live;
- Help Coloradans earn a living while protecting health and safety;
- Minimize secondary health effects (physical / mental health impacts);
- And protect vulnerable populations

Safer at Home Executive Order Details

- Vulnerable populations and seniors must stay at home except when absolutely necessary.
- No group gatherings over 10 people.
- Critical businesses remain open with strict precautions (social distancing, masks for all employees, more frequent cleanings, etc.)
- Retail businesses open for curbside delivery and phased-in public opening with strict precautions.
- Restaurants and bars remain closed except for takeout/delivery. Work towards phased reopening.
- Wearing non-medical cloth face coverings in public at all times, which is still not a substitute for distancing.
- Nightclubs, gyms and spas remain closed.
- Elective medical and dental procedures begin, with strict precautions to ensure adequate personal protective equipment and the ability to meet critical care needs.
- Personal services (salons, dog grooming, personal training, etc) can open with strict precautions.
- K-12 schools remain closed for the 2019-2020 school year.
- Telecommuting continues for offices. Starting May 4, up to 50% of staff MAY work in person (with social distancing in place) but we encourage employers to continue to

maximize telecommuting. Meaning if you can run your business with 100% telecommuting- do that!

- Limited post-secondary instruction may resume, including technical and vocational programs, that cannot be done remotely.

“Safer at home” in Nursing homes

A crucial component of this plan is that additional precautions and protections in nursing homes will continue to be a top priority. It's a big concern across the state and it's been a priority of our administration since we started our efforts to fight COVID-19. More than half of the deaths in our state are among residents of nursing homes and senior care facilities.

One of the first things we did was restrict visitations and require symptom screenings at senior care facilities. Now we are requiring a COVID-19 Prevention and Response Plan submitted by the facilities to CDPHE by May 1, 2020. A plan to isolate people who have COVID-19 symptoms or positive tests. And that all facility residents and employees must wear a mask or other face-covering when in public. Facility employees must wear an appropriate mask at all times when they are in the facility.

“Safer at Home” Options for Local Governments

For local governments, there is room for flexibility.

Counties have three options:

- A. Stay consistent with state regulations
- B. Go farther with local orders
 - Many counties may continue to have more restrictive rules in place.
 - We support places like Denver extending their order eight more days. They have the most cases in the state.
 - You must follow local orders. They are still the law.
- C. Third option: local flexibility further than the state that will require a waiver from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE).

We know that many counties aren't like Denver. Places like Bent county have zero confirmed cases, thus they probably don't need to have as severe restrictions. But we are still one state and the virus knows no boundaries so no precautions would not be appropriate either. But there are areas of the state, like Denver, JeffCo, Adams, Arapahoe, El Paso, Weld, that probably shouldn't be going too far in relaxing restrictions. We've still got a lot of work to do there.

Local conditions that will allow for more flexibility:

- Either a low number of new cases per day; OR
- Cases declining for the past 14 days; AND
- Must be combined with an early warning system to swiftly detect and address an increase in community spread to prevent a breach of local health care system capacity

Local requirements for more flexibility

- The local public health agency endorses the alternative plan.
- Local hospitals can verify that they have the capacity to serve all people needing their care.

- The county commissioners (or other county-level governing body) vote affirmatively to adopt the alternative plan in place of the Safer At Home Executive Order.

By sticking to this process, we can help protect health and safety while allowing for local flexibility.

Counties & Communities that disregard the order are breaking the law, jeopardizing their emergency preparedness grants, putting lives at risk and increasing disruptions to businesses and jobs.

Businesses who willfully disregard the regulations in the public health order will be issued a Cease and Desist Order and may have their license revoked.

Guidance for **industries**
As businesses begin to re-open over the coming weeks, each industry has specific guidelines to follow -- these can be found at: www.coloradosaferathome.com.

Protections for Workers

It is critical that we take steps to protect the safety of workers. Two of the most common questions we are getting are:

What if my employer is requiring me to return to work but I don't feel safe? No vulnerable individuals can be compelled by their employer to return to work if their work requires in person work near others. Employers must accommodate vulnerable individuals with remote work options, if the work can be done remotely. If an employer requires work from an employee entitled to paid leave (due to illness or a quarantine/isolation order) under the Colorado HELP Rules, that would be unlawful under those rules, and should be reported to [colorado labor law.gov](http://coloradolaborlaw.gov).

My workplace wants me to come back but with schools closed I have no childcare, what are my options? Per Safe-at-Home Executive order D 2020-044 employers must make accommodations to the greatest extent possible for workers who are experiencing a lack of childcare due to school closures- such accommodations include but are not limited to remote work options and/or flexible scheduling. Federal law provides up to 12 weeks of paid sick leave at two-thirds the employee's regular rate of pay because of childcare needs due to a coronavirus-related closure of a school or childcare establishment. The CARES Act also provides unemployment benefits under Pandemic Unemployment Assistance to those who are unable to work due to COVID-19.

Enforcement

We will need your help in enforcing these standards. Local public health, local law enforcement don't have the capacity to monitor every single business to make sure they are complying with the law and doing their part to help prevent the spread of coronavirus. If you see establishments that are not taking proper precautions and disobeying the public health order and putting you and others at risk please report them to the local public health agency and the Attorney

General's office at covid19@coag.gov. We all need to do our part to keep ourselves and each other safe.

The more successful we are at this Safer at Home phase, the more we are following the law, the more lives we will save, and the sooner we will be able to go even farther in getting back to something resembling normalcy.

And we want to hear from you -- the people of this state. Please give feedback on covid19.colorado.gov/CovidConcerns.

We greatly appreciate your helping to share information during this crisis. We will continue to send these regular updates. As always, please feel free to reach out to me with any questions or needs from our office. My cell phone is 210-385-7556. Thank you for doing your part. We're all in this together!

Thanks,
Analyse

Analyse Escobar
Deputy Community Engagement Director

P 303.866.3380

C 210.385.7556

[200 E Colfax](#), State Capitol, Denver, CO 80203

analyse.escobar@state.co.us | www.colorado.gov/governor



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Governor Jared Polis

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