

UPDATES FROM THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE 04.15.2020

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 today. 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](#)

Topline Update

As of today we have 8,280 cases, 357 deaths, and 1,636 hospitalizations out of 40,533 completed tests. We are thinking of these families and communities during these trying times.

New Public Data

In addition to the topline data that the state provides daily, the administration is increasing transparency by releasing more information to the public.

Starting this week, CDPHE will release a weekly report with information about confirmed COVID-19 outbreaks in long-term care facilities, nursing homes, correctional facilities, and other facilities. Furthermore, the Colorado Hospital Association is now releasing information about bed capacity and about the total number of hospital discharges.

In terms of bed capacity, the number of Coloradans hospitalized with COVID-like symptoms has hovered between the 1,100s and the 1,200s for the past week. In terms of discharges, 167 were discharged on April 12, 150 were discharged yesterday, and 204 were discharged today.

We congratulate those who have made it home from the hospital after a bout with this deadly virus. We all need some good news right now. We will continue to work with the hospitals to provide more information, and we'll continue to work with our federal partners to ensure that everyone has accurate data so we can craft the best evidence-based public policy response.

Guidelines for Relaxing Social Distancing Restrictions

The Governor also provided a lengthy update on guidelines for relaxing the stay-at-home order and other restrictions on commerce and social activity. He stressed that restrictions will be rolled back gradually, and some physical distancing guidelines will remain in place for longer, because even when Colorado has passed its peak of cases, the virus will still be present in the community.

The Governor outlined three phases:

1. **The "Urgent" Phase.** *This is where we are right now* -- where severe mitigation efforts are needed to slow the spread of the virus, buy time to build more health care capacity,

and buy time to obtain more testing equipment. Our ability to do these things will determine how long this phase lasts, which is why it is critical that Coloradans continue to stay home unless absolutely necessary.

2. **The “Stabilization” Phase** -- where we can begin to gradually relax restrictions as the distancing measures we have put in place bring down the rate of infections, hospitalizations, and deaths. The success of this depends on obtaining additional testing supplies and standing up a mass testing and monitoring system.
3. **The “Recovery” Phase** -- where things are essentially “back to normal” and COVID-19 outbreaks are sparse and handled by local health departments and CDPHE, like the norovirus outbreak in Mesa County last November, or the Mumps outbreak in Summit County last month. Getting to this phase will require a vaccine, some kind of anti-viral therapy that severely reduces the mortality rate, or the worst-case scenario: herd immunity that will only be achieved when a significant percentage of the population is infected with and recovers from the virus.

The Governor also outlined a number of key factors that will help to determine which restrictions can be relaxed, when they can be relaxed, and to what degree they can be relaxed:

- Suppression of the virus
- Ability to conduct testing and containment
- Ability to prevent infections for those who are most at risk
- Ability of health care system to handle increased demand
- Sustainability of social distancing policies, including their impact on the economy and society

Governor Polis also said that monitoring, evaluation, and modification of policies is crucial to ensure that public health is being protected.

To view the Governor’s presentation to the press today that outlines this information, click [here](#).

Highlighting State Workers

Finally, Governor Polis highlighted the work of state employees who are performing essential functions and providing a high level of service in incredibly difficult circumstances and in some cases putting their own health and safety on the line to ensure that everyday Coloradans get the help and services they need. They, along with all of the workers who are helping our economy and our society get through these tough times, deserve our gratitude.

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. We are all in this together!

Thanks,
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