



**COLORADO**  
Department of Public  
Health & Environment

# Application for Variance

Name of County: Rio Blanco

Name of Submitter: Alice Harvey

Phone Number of Submitter: 970-878-9520

Email of Submitter: alice.harvey@rbc.us

Rio Blanco County County requests a variance from the following restrictions in Executive Order D 2020 044 and/or Public Health Order 20-28.

List the sections of Executive Order D 2020 044 and/or Public Health Order 20-28 that a variance is being sought for:

Ic, Ih, IIa, IIc, IId, IIe, IIg, IIh, II.i.1, IIIa.3, Appendix A: I, II, Appendix C: I, Appendix D: b.2, c.2, F.5.

Summarize alternate restrictions being proposed to replace the above-referenced restrictions and indicate where in the Plan these alternate restrictions are addressed:

Large public gatherings with precautionary measures if physical distancing feasible (including graduation ceremonies). Due to small business sizes, remove 50% capacity with proposed guidelines (see attached); all businesses including restaurants, places of worsh, rec centers, real estate, meetings limit building capacity to ensure 6 ft distance between parties is feasible vs a percent capacity. Summer sports, camps and activities with precautions in small groups, outdoor and indoor recreation with precautions. Bars with limited capacity

Upload your county COVID-19 Suppression Plan and documentation demonstrating approval by the county commissioners, and confirmation from all impacted local hospitals that they can serve all individuals needing their care. Provide a brief summary of each of the following elements contained in the county COVID-19 Suppression Plan and indicate where in the Plan more information can be found for each element.

**1. Prevalence of COVID -19 within the county**

No cases since April 2nd, 2020. 1 total case in county since beginning of pandemic.

**2. Hospital Capacity**

2 critical access hospitals with capacity to care for COVID 19 patients and transfer critical patients to regional partners; with an increase of 4 or more cases in one week requiring hospitalization, board of health to convene and re-evaluate recommendations to ensure adequate hospital capacity.





3. Local containment measures

Comprehensive testing available. Trained public health staff with additional county staff on standby to perform case investigation and contact tracing.

4. Conditions to determine the variance is not providing adequate COVID-19 protection and the triggers for tightening restrictions.

Increase in 4 or more hospitalized cases in one week.

 Confirm that the variance requested does not lessen or eliminate the protections for Vulnerable Individuals in the Safer at Home Order and PHO 20-28.

 Confirm that the county will collect and monitor data to evaluate the impacts of the variance. and make such data available upon request by CDPHE.

Additional information relevant to the requested variance

These recommendations will serve through June 30th, at which time additional recommendations will be made.

By signing below, I attest that I am authorized pursuant to the adoption of the COVID-19 Suppression Plan by the Board of County Commissioners to submit this variance request to CDPHE for consideration.

DocuSigned by:



DD77202A7EC74B2

2020-05-21

Signature

Date



Rio Blanco County Department of Public Health  
COVID-19 Suppression Plan  
Version 2 (prepared 5.14.20)

PHASE II RECOMMENDATIONS

Disease transmission is currently under control in Rio Blanco County. Rio Blanco County Public Health can attest to the following:

Situational Awareness

- Rio Blanco County (RBC) has experienced only one case which was reported on April 2, 2020.
- Local health surveillance data is collected and updated weekly, including the number of individuals tested, patients seen at either hospital or clinic for COVID-19 like symptoms, and self-reported via our online symptom tracker form.
- Please see our website for additional data, [www.rbc.us](http://www.rbc.us)
- The population of our county is 6,331. There are two towns in our county, Meeker and Rangely. Our county is mostly rural with oil, gas and agricultural industries present. We are not a tourism driven economy.
- Our disease threshold for determining when to tighten back restrictions in various businesses or sectors will be calculated based on our hospital capacity: if within a one week period we experience an increase in 4 or more hospitalized positive cases, a special board of health meeting will be called to determine closure recommendations/restriction needs.

Testing

- PCR testing is currently available to all symptomatic individuals in the county.
- Testing has been available to symptomatic individuals since early March through a collaboration between both critical access hospitals and public health via drive through testing on either end of our county.
- Private testing is now available at each hospital, an Abbott testing machine has been received by at least one hospital for point of care PCR testing, and serology testing options are available in the county also.

- Community testing is available through public health on an as needed basis (as frequently as daily if needed), and we will be prepared to test individuals during an outbreak should one occur via a drive through testing clinic or in the community if necessary.
- Public Health would be able to assist in providing testing to our LTC facilities in collaboration with our local hospitals should an outbreak occur in one of those two facilities.

#### Incident Management Systems/Healthcare

- Rio Blanco County has two critical access hospitals, Pioneers Medical Center and Rangely District Hospital, both which are prepared to care for COVID-19 patients and accommodate all necessary transfer arrangements to higher levels of care as indicated.
- Rio Blanco County Public Health has participated in the development of community specific outbreak plans, regional medical surge plans, and hospital incident command system teams with local hospitals to ensure community readiness for an outbreak. We have been working with our hospitals to ensure an appropriate amount of PPE is available should normal capacity be exceeded, and we will continue to do so.

#### Public Health Response Capabilities

- The Rio Blanco County Public Health Department team consists of two public health nurses who will conduct contact investigations on positive cases should they arise.
- Case investigations will be completed within 24 hours. Contact tracing will also be performed with people who were in direct contact with identified positive cases.
- Additional funding could be used to hire additional temporary nursing staff if needed.
- County personnel could also be cross-trained and utilized to perform contract tracing and other epi response activities should an outbreak occur in any setting in Rio Blanco County.
- The positive case in Rio Blanco County was traced to a known source, has recovered fully, and no close contact of this case developed symptoms. The quarantine and isolation period has been completed successfully for all of these individuals.

#### High Vulnerability Populations

- We have identified our highest risk populations to be the following:
  - Those living in RBC who are over the age of 65
  - Those living in one of our two long term care facilities
  - Those living in senior housing (White River Village, The Pines, The Fairfield Apartments)
  - Those living with chronic medical conditions
  - Those who are immunocompromised
  - Inmates residing in the Rio Blanco County jail
- Outbreak Risks in High-Vulnerability Settings have been minimized by adhering to all local, state and federal recommendations for infection control; this includes our two long term care facilities and one detention center. This has been done in conjunction with our two hospitals

who house the long-term care facilities in the county and our sheriff's office detention center staff.

- Special targeted communication to these high-risk groups has been generated from the beginning of the pandemic, and will continue in the form of mailers, call campaigns, our reverse 911 alert system, signs and posters, newspaper ads, social media, bi-lingual notices, hospital message boards, our website and hospital websites, and community group notices (including flyers that are put in food bank boxes).
- Testing is available for all of these high-risk individuals and may be expanded to include asymptomatic individuals living within congregate care settings in collaboration with CDPHE and/or local hospitals.
- Community support resources targeted to this population continues to be spread through the above referenced communication methods, including special hours for grocery shopping, delivery services, mental health services, healthcare services, and targeted education.

### Community and Industry Mitigation

- Rio Blanco County Department of Public Health has been working closely with the private sector to ensure that all prevention recommendations are available, attainable, and sustainable for the future to both industry and business offices in Rio Blanco County. We have, for example, acquired over 300 gallons of hand sanitizer sourced from a local industry partner to distribute to all businesses in the county for no cost.
- An alliance and communication strategy has been established between industry partners, including local mines, oil, gas and electric plants, the natural soda plant, and agricultural organizations to ensure prevention guidelines are widely dispersed and understood. A close relationship and constant communication exists between public health and these industry partners, and outbreak plans/expectations have been discussed.
- Guidelines addressing prevention have been written and distributed to schools, workplaces, and other essential places as outlined in our sector-specific recommendation document.
- Industry partners, businesses and organizations have been encouraged to submit detailed business plans outlining their specific COVID-19 safety plans. We have collaborated with many of these partners in writing their plans.
- A form has been created for any organization who is planning a public event in 2020 to submit for review to the Board of County Commissioners. The determination of the possibility for these events to occur safely and within safety guidelines will be re-evaluated on a continuous basis throughout the remainder of the year by our Board of Health/Board of County Commissioners.
- Rio Blanco County Public Health will be working closely with the BoCC to determine safe guidelines for all summer activities occurring within the county, including summer camps, recreational activities including youth sports, and any fairs or outdoor events that may or may not occur depending upon situational awareness and will be making best practice recommendations in advance.
- Recommendations have been sent to appropriate individuals discouraging recreational travel to Rio Blanco County. Pending events should avoid marketing to out of county visitors and made local, if possible.

- Rio Blanco County Public Health is involved in a weekly meeting with members of our community representing our special districts (including schools, hospitals, and recreation), town officials, chamber of commerce members, law enforcement, and other community leaders. We have also been in close communication with the Bureau of Land Management, the Department of Wildlife, and the National Forest Service to ensure all outdoor recreation recommendations are consistent across our county.
- Both airports in Rio Blanco County have protocols for handling an exposed or potentially infectious person at the airport.
- Rio Blanco County Public Health has been working closely with both healthcare facilities to implement physical distancing guidelines and best practice infection control guidelines.
- Rio Blanco County Public Health retail food inspector and the chambers of commerce for both towns have been working with local businesses to implement physical distancing guidelines and other infection control best practices.
- Rio Blanco County Public Health has a robust public information messaging system, including a reverse 911 alert system, social media campaigns, weekly video updates, weekly newspaper ads, online newspaper ads, monthly Q and A sessions with the local newspaper, an up to date website with surveillance data and recommendations, phone tree/call triage system for public inquiries, and has been attending staff and community meetings virtually to provide education in order to promote education and compliance related to physical distancing and other best practice guidelines as it relates to COVID-19.
- Rio Blanco County Public Health is working with outdoor recreation facilities to implement physical distancing guidelines.
- Rio Blanco County Public Health is working with faith groups and other social groups to implement physical distancing and best practice guidelines to any activities occurring within the community.
- Rio Blanco County Public Health is working closely with our two school districts to implement safety plans for school sport summer practices, along with our recreation centers.
- Rio Blanco County Public Health has created a comprehensive list of mental health care resources for our residents and will continue to make mental health a priority as outlined in our 2020 strategic goals during this pandemic.



**Rio Blanco County Department of Public Health**  
**SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS BY SECTOR for PHASE II**  
**May 27<sup>th</sup>-July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020**

**These recommendations may differ from state requirements  
To be re-evaluated prior to July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020.**

General Public:

- Gatherings of 50 people or more should be avoided.
- Planned public gatherings should include precautionary measures and should only be considered if physical distancing is feasible.
- Individuals from different households should maintain at least six feet distance from each other and maximize distance when possible.
- Events should avoid marketing to out of county visitors and made local if possible.
- High risk/vulnerable Individuals are still encouraged to isolate.
- LARGE VENUES can operate under moderate physical distancing protocols.

All Entities:

**It is recommended that all employees be screened for symptoms daily and those who are symptomatic be excluded from the place of employment and self-isolate for no less than 10 days.**

Business Offices:

- Encourage telework, as feasible and when possible.
- Maintain at least six feet distance from customers and each other.
- Desks, work stations, and other work areas should be separated by at least six feet. If fixed stations exist, separate employees or clients by leaving one station in between. Workstations separated by walls that are six feet or higher are acceptable.
- Implement or maintain physical barriers for high-contact settings (e.g. reception areas).
- Implement physical distance protocols in common areas or anywhere employees are likely to gather (separate tables and chairs by at least six feet).
- Place markings on the floor to maintain at least six feet distance in customer lines; try to establish one-way passage as much as possible.

- Employers are encouraged to consider implementing and maintaining flexible sick leave policies and practices.
- Consider accommodations for high-risk individuals or populations.
- Employees and contracted workers whose duties include close contact with members of the public are encouraged to wear a non-medical cloth face covering over the nose and mouth.
- All employees are encouraged to wear a non-medical cloth face covering over the nose and mouth while in spaces where social distancing is difficult (common areas, public areas, etc), except where doing so would inhibit the individual's health.
- All employees will self-screen prior to coming to work and will not come to work if exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19, including fever, or have been at high risk for exposure. In person screenings are still encouraged when feasible.
- Encourage frequent hand hygiene practices.

#### Retail and Personal Services:

- Businesses that were open under the stay at home order should maintain the same precautions and physical distancing practices.
- As much as possible, continue curbside delivery while phasing into public opening.
- Personal services (salons, tattoo parlors, dog grooming, etc.) and non-critical businesses can open and are encouraged to operate under the following guidelines:
  - Spread people out so there is at least six feet distance between individuals throughout the facility.
  - Limit the number of clients to ensure that six feet distance between customers is feasible.
  - Separate workstations (tables, chairs, etc.) by six feet. If fixed stations exist, separate clients by leaving one station in between. Workstations separated by walls that are six feet or higher are acceptable.
  - Implement or continue early opening for high-risk individuals.
  - Employees and contracted workers whose duties include close contact with members of the public are encouraged to wear a non-medical cloth face covering over the nose and mouth.
  - Implement or maintain curbside services in businesses as a preferred method.
  - Stagger shifts if feasible to decrease the number of employees at the business.
  - Maintain at least six feet physical distancing in waiting areas.
  - Place markings on the floor to maintain at least six feet distance in customer lines.
  - Implement touchless payment methods when possible.
  - Encourage the public to wear cloth face coverings to enter the businesses.
  - Encourage frequent hand hygiene practices.

#### Restaurants:

- Continuing takeout and delivery is highly encouraged.
- As much as possible, continue curbside delivery while phasing into public opening.
- Self-serving stations are discouraged (drinking stations, bulk dry, etc.).



- Spread people/tables out so there is at least six feet distance between individuals/parties throughout.
- Limit the number of customers to ensure that six feet distance between parties and tables is feasible.
- Place markings on the floor to maintain at least six feet distance in customer lines.
- Implement touchless payment methods when possible.
- People within a party should be family members or acquaintances who have previously been in contact with each other and there is limited risk of disease transmission.
- Discourage public sharing of utensils or condiments.
- Buffets shall have an employee serving the food, no self-serving allowed.
- Maintain physical distancing (six feet) in waiting areas.
- Employees and contracted workers whose duties include close contact with members of the public are encouraged to wear a non-medical cloth face covering over the nose and mouth.
- Encourage the public to wear cloth face coverings to enter the businesses.
- Customers should be asked prior to entering a restaurant whether they have any symptoms of COVID-19, and any customers reporting symptoms must be excluded.
- Restaurants should encourage customers to wait outside and not in the lobby area for a table.
- Customers should be encouraged to make reservations online or by phone, and every effort should be made to notify customers via text or phone call when their table is ready so no waiting in a lobby is necessary.
- Bars may operate with diminished occupancy:
  - Limit the number of clients to ensure that six feet distance between customers is feasible
- Encourage frequent hand hygiene practices:

Elective, Medical and Health Services:

- Visitation to hospitals and senior living facilities is prohibited at this time.
  - Those who interact with residents and patients must adhere to strict hygiene protocols.
- Elective surgeries can resume under CMS guidelines.
- Elective health services can reopen with while adhering to current federal and state guidelines:  
<https://covid19.colorado.gov/covid-19-resources-for-health-care-providers-and-local-public-health-agencies>
- Encourage frequent hand hygiene practices.

Recreation (subject to individual jurisdiction such as BLM, NFS, and Rec Districts):

- Playgrounds are encouraged to remain closed.
- Park facilities that enable social distancing such as trails, green space and golf will remain open.
- Maintain physical distancing in outdoor settings (six feet while hiking, fifteen feet while running or biking).
- Open outdoor recreation facilities where adequate controls can be implemented to ensure physical distancing (six feet).

\*Basketball courts, softball/baseball fields and tennis courts may remain open for use by individuals or members of the same household, with the exception of organized team sport practice (see requirements below)

- Camping should be limited to one family per campsite.
- Group camping, in individual campsites or group campsites are discouraged.
- Perform frequent cleaning and disinfection of bathrooms and high-touch surfaces
- Encourage frequent hand hygiene practices

Education:

- Programs and courses at postsecondary institutions should comply with directives issued by the Colorado Department of Higher Education.
- Child care facilities can reopen with the following precautions:
  - Perform frequent environmental cleaning and disinfection (concentrate on high touch surfaces like playgrounds, toys, tables, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, desks, phones, keyboards, toilets, faucets, sinks, etc.).
  - All employees should be encouraged to wear a non-medical cloth face covering over the nose and mouth while working with children.
  - Maintain at least six feet distance from coworkers.
  - Implement physical distance protocols in common areas (separate tables and chairs by at least six feet).
  - Symptomatic children should be excluded from care.
  - To the extent possible, limit the sharing of utensils, toys, and classroom materials.
  - To the extent possible, limit shared spaces to one classroom at the time (e.g. playgrounds).
  - Encourage frequent hand hygiene practices.

### Real Estate:

- In-person home showings can continue.
- Maintain at least six feet distance between parties.
- Cloth face coverings are highly encouraged.
- Prior to a showing, ask participants to exclude themselves if they are experiencing symptoms of any illness, ensure clients are not experiencing COVID symptoms.
- Open houses may resume for scheduled showing times with no more than 10 people in the home at any given time.
- Encourage frequent hand hygiene practices.

### Places of Worship:

- When offering on-site services:
  - Limit the number of participants to ensure that six feet distance between parties is feasible.
  - Operate following strict physical distancing recommendations.
  - Spread people out so there is at least six feet distance between families throughout.
  - Place markings on the floor to maintain at least six feet distance where lines form.
  - Implement or maintain one-way entry/exit and aisles.
  - Perform frequent cleaning and disinfection of bathrooms and high-touch surfaces.
  - Outside services are recommended if possible while maintaining social distancing.
  - Ask participants to exclude themselves from attending services if they are experiencing symptoms of any illness.
  - Participants should be encouraged to wear a face covering both when entering and while present in the house of worship, except when specific participation in the service requires removal, such as to receive communion.
  - Shared communion chalices/cups are discouraged.
  - Limit handling of communion trays to servers only. Discourage handling of communion and offering trays by participants.
  - Children's gatherings, such as Vacation Bible School:
    - Students in groups of 10 or less with a set roster.
    - Maximize physical distancing with at least six feet distance between individuals.
    - Encourage frequent hand hygiene practices.
    - Participants should be asked to exclude themselves if they have COVID-19 symptoms at the start of practice.
    - Instructors encouraged to wear cloth face coverings.

### Gyms:

- Can open with minimal operations if the following physical distancing and cleaning practices are possible:
  - Limit the number of clients to maintain a six feet distance between parties.
  - Ask customers to exclude themselves from using the facility if they are experiencing symptoms of any illness.
  - Customers should be encouraged to wear a face covering both when entering the facility and while in the facility, unless a face covering inhibits the participants ability to participate in the fitness activity.
  - Maximize physical distancing with at least six feet distance between individuals throughout.
  - Implement one-way entry/exit if feasible.
  - Perform frequent environmental cleaning and disinfection of bathrooms and high- touch surfaces.
  - Request clients to disinfect equipment after every use.
  - Employees must clean and disinfect shared equipment between customer uses.
  - Given the many unknowns regarding how the SARS CoV-2 virus responsible for COVID-19 is spread, equipment in the gym should be no less than six feet apart from each other.
  - Smaller exercise rooms with poor ventilation should be discouraged from use.
  - Group classes such as water aerobics and outdoor fitness activities are allowed in groups of no more than 10 and with strict physical distancing recommended.
  - Shower rooms should remain closed, however locker facilities and bathrooms may remain open with limited occupancy allowing for physical distancing and strict sanitation practices in place.
  - Saunas, pools (indoor and outdoor) and shared spaces should remain closed, except swim lanes and water fitness areas (see above).
  - Encourage frequent hand hygiene practices.
  - Food/drink bars should remain closed.

### Summer Sports and Organized Youth Activities:

- Swim Team Practices:
  - 2 people per lane unless they are in the same family unit then the number per lane can exceed 2 people.
  - Maximum of 10 people per practice.
  - Pre-shower at home and enter and exit the pool through the side doors.

- Customers must be asked whether they have COVID-19 symptoms at the door and should be excluded from the fitness center if symptomatic.
- Encourage frequent hand hygiene practices.

●Softball/Baseball Practices:

- Practice in groups of 10 or less, with a set roster.
- More than one group of ten is allowed if the players are spread out on the different parts of the field or batting stations, and physical distancing can be maintained.
- Equipment sanitation should be provided in between group rotations.
- Maximize physical distancing with at least six feet distance between individuals throughout, especially during stretching, drills and in the dugout.
- Players and coaches should be asked to exclude themselves if they have COVID-19 symptoms at the start of practice.
- No team sharing of helmets. Individual helmets required.
- No community water stations or drinking fountains.
- Encourage frequent hand hygiene practices.

●Basketball:

- Practice in groups of 10 or less, with a set roster.
- More than one group of ten is allowed if the players are spread out on the court/split gym and physical distancing can be maintained.
- Equipment sanitation should be provided in between group rotations.
- Maximize physical distancing between individuals when possible, especially during stretching, drills and in team huddles.
- Players and coaches should be asked to exclude themselves if they have COVID-19 symptoms at the start of practice.
- Perform frequent environmental cleaning and disinfection of balls, bathrooms and high-touch surfaces.
- Set practice times with no overlap between different teams.
- No community water stations or drinking fountains.
- Encourage frequent hand hygiene practices.

●Wrestling:

- No physical contact, fitness and strengthening training only.
- Practice in groups of 10 or less, with a set roster.
- More than one group of ten is allowed if wrestlers are spread out in gym and physical distancing can be maintained.

- Maximize physical distancing with at least six feet distance between individuals throughout.
- Implement one-way entry/exit if feasible.
- Perform frequent environmental cleaning and disinfection of bathrooms and high- touch surfaces.
- Require athletes to disinfect equipment after every use.
- Players and coaches should be asked to exclude themselves if they have COVID-19 symptoms at the start of practice.
- Athletes should be encouraged to wear a face covering both when entering the facility and while in the facility, unless a face covering inhibits the participants ability to participate in the fitness activity.
- Given the many unknowns regarding how the SARS CoV-2 virus responsible for COVID-19 is spread, use of equipment in the gym should be no closer than every six feet from each other.
- Smaller exercise rooms with poor ventilation should be discouraged from use.
- Coaches must clean and disinfect shared equipment, including wrestling mats, between uses.
- No community water stations or drinking fountains.
- Encourage frequent hand hygiene practices.

● Volleyball:

- Practice in groups of 10 or less, with a set roster.
- More than one group of ten is allowed if the players are spread out on the court/split gym and physical distancing can be maintained.
- Equipment sanitation should be provided in between group rotations.
- Maximize physical distancing between individuals when possible, especially during stretching, drills and in team huddles throughout, especially during stretching, drills and in team huddles.
- Players and coaches should be asked to exclude themselves if they have COVID-19 symptoms at the start of practice.
- Perform frequent environmental cleaning and disinfection of ball, bathrooms and high-touch surfaces.
- Set practice times with no overlap between different teams.
- No community water stations or drinking fountains.
- Encourage frequent hand hygiene practices.

●Football:

- Practice in groups of 11 or less, with a set roster.
- More than one group of ten is allowed if the players are spread out on the different parts of the field and physical distancing can be maintained.
- Equipment sanitation should be provided in between group rotations.
- Maximize physical distancing with at least six feet distance between individuals throughout, especially during stretching, drills and on the sidelines.
- Players and coaches should be asked to exclude themselves if they have COVID-19 symptoms at the start of practice.
- No team sharing of helmets. Individual helmets required.
- No community water stations or drinking fountains.
- Encourage frequent hand hygiene practices.

●Camping/Guide and Outfitting:

- Group Camping/ Guide and Outfitting of more than 10 people, is discouraged.
- Encourage self-contained units.
- Perform frequent environmental cleaning and disinfection of bathrooms and high- touch surfaces.
- Encourage frequent hand hygiene practices.

●Youth Camps:

- Students in groups of 10 or less with a set roster.
- Maximize physical distancing with at least six feet distance between individuals.
- Encourage frequent hand hygiene practices.
- Participants and supervisors/counselors should be asked to exclude themselves if they have COVID-19 symptoms at the start of each day.
- Instructors encouraged to wear cloth face coverings.

● Libraries:

- Limit the number of customers to a total of no more than 10 at any given time.
- Do not allow customers to congregate in book aisles.
- Operate with strict physical distancing practices of six feet between customers.
- Place markings on the floor to maintain at least six feet distance where lines form
- Implement or maintain one-way entry/exit.
- Encourage employees and the public to wear cloth face coverings.
- Perform frequent cleaning and disinfection of bathrooms and high-touch surfaces.
- Ask customers to exclude themselves from using the facility if they are experiencing symptoms of any illness.

- Encourage online ordering of books and continue to offer curbside services, such as delivery, pick up and drop off bins.
- Jackets of returned books, magazines, and videos should be cleaned with sanitizing wipes prior to restocking.
- All returned paper items (books, newspapers, magazines, etc.) should be removed from circulation for a total of 24 hours following sanitation.
- Services such as copying and faxing for the general public are allowed with strict sanitation and hand hygiene performed between each service.
- Limit use of computers to every other station.
- Keyboards and touchscreen devices should be sanitized after each use.
- Large children's gatherings, such as story time events, are discouraged
- Encourage frequent hand hygiene practices.



# RIO BLANCO COUNTY

## Roadmap - Phase 2

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Continuing Strategies for Success:

Phase 1 dated April 29, 2020

Phase 2 dated May 20, 2020

# PROPOSED APPROACH – PHASE 2





## Decisions should be based on the following:

- ✓ Up to date data and readiness of community
- ✓ Ability to mitigate risk of resurgence
- ✓ Protection of those most vulnerable

# PRIORITIES FOR SUCCESS

1. A consistent approach with a consistent message
2. A messaging campaign that brings community members to a place of common understanding and social responsibility
3. Each county in Colorado has its own timeline
  - a. Rio Blanco County has unique needs and a rural lifestyle that lends itself to unique guidelines for COVID-19 mitigation.
4. Incremental steps
  - a. Thoughtfully implemented phases will help to prevent reinstating restrictions due to resurgence.
5. Time and frequent evaluation
  - a. Helps to progress to the next phase of reopening.

**CORE RESPONSIBILITIES  
ACHIEVED  
and  
MAINTAINED  
PHASE 1**

TESTING AND CONTACT TRACING	HEALTHCARE SYSTEM CAPACITY	PLANS	SUCCESS
Ability to set up safe and efficient screening and testing sites for symptomatic individuals and trace contacts of COVID + results	Ability to quickly and independently supply sufficient Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and critical medical equipment to handle dramatic surge in need	Protect the health and safety of workers in critical industries	
Ability to test syndromic/ILI-indicated persons for COVID and trace contacts of COVID + results	Ability to transport for surge ICU capacity	Protect the health and safety of those living and working in high-risk facilities (e.g., senior care facilities)	
Ensure sentinel surveillance sites are screening for asymptomatic cases and contacts for COVID+ results are traced (sites operate at locations that serve all community individuals).		Advise citizens regarding protocols for social distancing and face coverings	
		Monitor conditions and immediately take steps to limit and mitigate any rebounds or outbreaks by restarting a phase or returning to an earlier phase, depending on severity and capacity to serve the community	

# ACHIEVED REGIONAL GATING CRITERIA

Phase 1 began on April 29, 2020 and has been successfully completed.

<b>SYMPTOMS</b>	<b>CASES</b>	<b>HOSPITALS</b>
Downward trajectory of influenza-like illnesses reported within a 14-day period	Downward trajectory of documented cases within a 14-day period	Treat all patients without crisis care
<b>AND</b>	<b>OR</b>	<b>AND</b>
Downward trajectory of covid-like syndromic cases reported within a 14-day period	Downward trajectory of positive tests as a percent of total tests within a 14-day period (flat or increasing volume of tests)	Robust testing program in place for at-risk healthcare workers, including emerging antibody testing

## MOVING FORWARD – PHASE 2

### **Continued Evaluation Illustrates Supports Progression to Phase 2.**

Triggers for moving to Phase 2 have been met. Ex: all criteria has been met in Phase 1 plus proposed criteria outlined in Phase 2.

*Successful recovery balances the concerns of the disease with the long-term economic and behavioral health needs.*

## PHASE 2:

There has been no evidence of rebound or new cases within the Rio Blanco County and previous gating criteria has been met.

### GUIDELINES FOR RIO BLANCO COUNTY RESIDENTS

**ALL VULNERABLE INDIVIDUALS** should continue to shelter in place and precautions taken to isolate said individuals. Members of households could potentially carry the virus home if working in an environment where physical distancing is not feasible.

**WHEN IN PUBLIC SPACES**, individuals should maximize physical distance from others. Settings of 50 people or more should be avoided unless precautionary measures are taken or physical distancing is feasible.

**NON-ESSENTIAL TRAVEL** is not recommended but decision making is left to the individual and or entity to decide best practices..



## PHASE 2

### GUIDELINES FOR EMPLOYERS

ENCOURAGE TELEHEALTH, as feasible and when possible.

COMMON AREAS where employees are likely to gather and where public may congregate should be encouraged to maintain moderate physical distancing protocols and the area should be frequently cleaned and high-touch areas disinfected.

CONSIDER SPECIAL ACCOMODATIONS for employees who are members of vulnerable populations.

## PHASE 2

### SPECIFIC TYPES OF EMPLOYERS AND ORGANIZATIONS

ORGANIZED YOUTH ACTIVITIES (camps, daycare) can reopen.

POLICIES REGARDING VISITS TO HOSPITALS AND SENIOR CENTERS should be set by the facility ensuring the safety of its residents. Those who interact with residents and patients must adhere to strict hygiene protocols.

LARGE VENUES (sporting events, places of worship, sit-down dining) can operate under moderate physical distancing protocols.

ELECTIVE SURGERIES can resume, as clinically appropriate on an outpatient and inpatient basis at facilities that adhere to CMS guidelines.

GYMS can remain open if they adhere to strict physical distancing and sanitation protocols.

BARS may operate with diminished standing room occupancy where applicable and appropriate.

# REGIONAL GATING CRITERIA BEFORE PROCEEDING TO PHASE 3

<b>SYMPTOMS</b>	<b>CASES</b>	<b>HOSPITALS</b>
<p>Maintain stable trajectory of influenza-like illnesses reported within a 14-day period to ensure medical capacity remains sufficient to meet the needs of the community</p>	<p>Maintain stable trajectory of documented cases within a 14-day period</p>	<p>Continue to treat all patients without crisis care</p>
<p><b>AND</b></p>	<p><b>OR</b></p>	<p><b>AND</b></p>
<p>Maintain stable trajectory of covid-like syndromic cases reported within a 14-day period to ensure medical capacity remains sufficient to meet the needs of the community</p>	<p>Maintain stable trajectory of positive tests as a percent of total tests within a 14-day period (flat or increasing volume of tests)</p>	<p>Maintain robust testing program in place for at-risk healthcare workers, including emerging antibody testing</p>