Changes to Public Health Orders Related to COVID-19
February 25, 2021

Summary
➔ Changes to the current public health orders will take effect on March 1, 2021.
➔ Due to improving metrics around the state (case counts, hospitalizations, etc.), changes to the next round of orders include:
  ◆ Elimination of Order #3 (salons, barber shops, cosmetology, etc.) Please note, these businesses shall still comply with the statewide mask protocol provided in Order #4.
  ◆ Further easing of restrictions on indoor and outdoor events.
  ◆ Further easing of restrictions on organized sports and artistic performances.
  ◆ Further easing of restrictions on restaurants.
  ◆ Easing of requirements for staff screening logs and signage.

Additional detail on the changes to each public health order is provided below.

Changes to Public Health Order #1
➔ Further easing restrictions on restaurants and theaters. Groups of up to 10 will now be permitted to sit together, up from 8 (see Order #2 as well).
➔ Buffets and self-service will be allowed in restaurants.
➔ Staff screening logs and signage requirements will be relaxed.

Changes to Public Health Order #2
➔ Gatherings (without required distancing between groups) are limited to 50 individuals (previously 25).
➔ Indoor events may allow up to 25% of venue capacity with a maximum of 1,000 people (up from 500). Groups of up to 10 will now be permitted to sit together, up from 8.
➔ Outdoor events may allow up to 50% of venue capacity with a maximum of 2,000 people (up from 1,000). Groups of up to 10 will now be permitted to sit together, up from 8.
➔ Participants in organized sporting events and artistic performances shall not congregate in groups larger than 50 individuals (up from 25).

Changes to Public Health Order #3
➔ Order #3 will be eliminated, however these businesses shall still comply with the statewide mask protocol provided in Order #4.

Continuation of Statewide Order for Mask Use (Public Health Order #4)
➔ Use of masks statewide will continue with this round of orders.
TWENTY-SECOND CONTINUATION, AND MODIFICATION, OF STATEWIDE PUBLIC HEALTH ORDER REGARDING BARS, RESTAURANTS, THEATERS, GYMNASIUMS, CHILD CARE FACILITIES, K-12 SCHOOLS, COLLEGES, UNIVERSITIES, AND TRADE SCHOOLS

In an effort to stop the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19), the Wyoming Department of Health finds it necessary to protect the health of the public by modifying and continuing certain restrictions as outlined in this Order. Additionally, this Order implements measures in line with the White House unveiling, on April 16, 2020, of certain guidelines for Opening Up America Again - a three-phased approach beginning with State or Regional Gating Criteria and continuing through three phases of removing restrictions when there is no evidence of resurgence of the virus.

The metrics measuring outbreak progress and healthcare system capacity support the Wyoming Department of Health continuing the previous statewide public health orders through a measured and data-based approach (except Statewide Public Health Order #3 which will expire on February 28, 2021, and will not be renewed). As with previous statewide public health orders, this Order continues to authorize countywide variances to the restrictions within this Order, in the form of a Countywide Variance Order, if approved in writing by the County Health Officer and the State Health Officer.

This Order also eases several restrictions for businesses as outlined in this Order. For instance, this Order removes the requirements that businesses screen employees for COVID-19 symptoms, maintain a log of screening activity, post signage instructing patrons to remain at least 6 feet apart and not enter if they have symptoms of COVID-19, and encourage contactless and non-signature payment. This Order also removes the prohibition on buffet and self-serve dining. This Order further increases the allowable group size from 8 to 10 people as described herein. Child care providers are required to screen staff and children for symptoms of COVID-19 but are not required to maintain a log of the screening activity. Finally, this Order increases the allowable group workout class for gymnasiums from 25 to 50 participants and removes the requirement that gymnasiums assign specific lockers to individuals.

This Order is effective on March 1, 2021, and shall remain in effect through March 15, 2021, unless the Wyoming Department of Health revokes or extends this Order before March 15, 2021.

FINDINGS

1. COVID-19 was first detected in Wuhan, China in 2019, and since then has spread to over 60 countries including the United States. There are 45,801 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Wyoming as of February 24, 2021, as well as the presence of community spread. It is expected that more cases will be diagnosed. There have been 671 deaths among Wyoming residents related to COVID-19.

2. COVID-19 is a respiratory illness, transmitted through person-to-person contact or by contact with surfaces contaminated with the virus. Persons infected with COVID-19 may become symptomatic two to fourteen days after exposure. The symptoms of COVID-19 include fever, cough, and shortness of breath. In some cases, COVID-19 can result in severe disease including
hospitalization, admission to an intensive care unit, and death, especially among older adults and persons with serious underlying health conditions. New information about the implications of this virus is ongoing.


4. On March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared a national emergency concerning the coronavirus, specifically stating that, in "December 2019 a novel (new) coronavirus known as SARS-CoV-2 ("the virus") was first detected in Wuhan, Hubei Province, People's Republic of China, causing outbreaks of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) that has now spread globally [...] The spread of COVID-19 within our Nation's communities threatens to strain our Nation's healthcare systems. [...] Additional measures [...] are needed to successfully contain and combat the virus in the United States."


6. Governor Gordon’s Declaration of a State of Emergency and Public Health Emergency directs the Wyoming Department of Health to take all appropriate and necessary actions, and that in the judgment of the Director of the Wyoming Department of Health, any actions necessary should be taken to provide aid to those locations where there is a threat or danger to public health, safety, and welfare.

7. A significant number of Wyoming citizens are at risk of serious health complications, including death, from COVID-19. Although most individuals who contract COVID-19 do not become seriously ill, people with mild symptoms, and even asymptomatic persons with COVID-19, place other vulnerable members of the public at significant risk.

8. A large number of persons with serious infections may compromise the ability of healthcare systems in Wyoming to deliver the necessary healthcare to the public.

9. Wyoming Statute § 35-1-240(a)(i), (ii), (iii), and (iv) provides all the rights and powers for the Wyoming Department of Health, through the State Health Officer, Dr. Alexia Harrist, MD, PhD, or under her directive through other employees of the Wyoming Department of Health, to control the causes of communicable disease; to close theaters, schools, and other public places; and to forbid gatherings of people when necessary to protect public health.

10. In addition to the above findings, stopping the spread of COVID-19 includes washing your hands often, practicing social distancing by avoiding close contact with others, staying at least six feet away from someone who is ill or showing signs of illness, avoiding touching your face, eyes, nose and mouth, covering your cough or sneeze into your elbow or by using a tissue, and by wearing a face covering when in public.
ORDER

1. As used in this order “Face Covering” means a covering made of cloth, fabric, or other soft or permeable material, without holes, that covers the nose and mouth and surrounding areas of the lower face.

2. Pursuant to Wyo. Stat. Ann. § 35-1-240(a)(i), (ii), (iii), and (iv), beginning on March 1, 2021, and continuing through March 15, 2021, unless revoked or extended by the Wyoming Department of Health before March 15, 2021, restaurants, food courts, cafes, coffeehouses, bars, taverns, brew pubs, breweries, microbreweries, distillery pubs, wineries, tasting rooms, special licensees, clubs, cigar bars, and other places of public accommodation offering food, beverages, or alcoholic beverages for on-premises consumption may provide services (indoors and outdoors) under the following restrictions, to be enforced by the business owner:

   a. All patrons shall be seated at tables or booths;

   b. Tables and booths must be limited to groups of 10, however, a business may make exceptions for groups greater than 10 if the group is solely comprised of members from the same household;

   c. Tables with patrons must be positioned such that patrons at different tables are at least 6 feet apart on all sides when seated; the requirement for patrons at different tables to be seated 6 feet apart does not apply to booths;

   d. Physical distancing guidelines must be maintained while customers enter and remain on premises;

   e. Staff that come within 6 feet of customers or other staff shall wear Face Coverings; staff shall perform hand hygiene between interactions with each table;

   f. The business shall not operate without appropriate protective equipment for staff (Face Coverings, gloves for serving and cleaning, etc.), EPA-approved disinfectants and sanitizers, soap and other necessary cleaning supplies;

   g. Hand sanitizer shall be available at the business entrance and immediately adjacent to all bathrooms;

   h. Cleaning and disinfecting shall be performed in the morning, afternoon, and evening; all tables, chairs, door handles, floors, and bathrooms, and any high-touch surfaces must be cleaned and disinfected;

   i. Employees who are ill shall not be allowed to work; employees who have been exposed to a COVID-19 positive person within the previous 14 days shall not be allowed to work;

   j. Staff shall sanitize hands between handling payment options and food containers;
k. The business shall maintain a record of staff working hours by date and time for purposes of COVID-19 contact tracing; if such recordkeeping is done manually, sanitizing measures must be taken on the instruments used for recordkeeping in between use;

l. Playgrounds at the business shall remain closed; and

m. Dances or karaoke shall not take place at the business.

3. Gymnasiums may operate in a limited capacity, only under the following restrictions, to be enforced by the owner of the facility:

a. Staff that come within 6 feet of customers or other staff shall wear Face Coverings;

b. Employees who are ill shall not be allowed to work; employees who have been exposed to a COVID-19 positive person within the previous 14 days shall not be allowed to work;

c. The business shall maintain a record of staff working hours by date and time for purposes of COVID-19 contact tracing; if such recordkeeping is done manually, sanitizing measures must be taken on the instruments used for recordkeeping in between use;

d. Locker rooms and showers may be open provided that proper cleaning is performed and physical distancing between patrons can be maintained;

e. Workout equipment must be no less than 6 feet apart (and preferably 10 feet apart), enforced by staff during operation;

f. Workout equipment shall be cleaned by staff or patrons in between each patron use;

g. Handwashing stations, or hand sanitizer, shall be readily available for all patrons;

h. Group workout classes shall be limited to 50 participants;

i. Patrons must maintain physical distancing during their workout (including while in a swimming pool);

j. Spas, steam rooms, and saunas may be open so long as appropriate physical distancing measures are maintained between patrons that are not of the same household; and

k. The business shall not operate without appropriate protective equipment for staff (Face Coverings, gloves for serving and cleaning, etc.), EPA-approved disinfectants and sanitizers, soap and other necessary cleaning supplies.
4. Movie theaters, performance theaters, opera houses, concert halls, and music halls may operate in a limited capacity, under the following restrictions to be enforced by the owner of the facility:

a. Groups of patrons seated together must be limited to 10, however, a business may make exceptions for groups greater than 10 if the group is solely comprised of members from the same household;

b. A 6-foot distance must be maintained between individual groups at all times, including in waiting areas and while seated in the facility, to be enforced by the business in whatever manner the business chooses;

c. Close contact between members of different groups is prohibited before, during, and after each performance;

d. Staff shall perform hand hygiene between interactions with each customer or party;

e. Staff that come within 6 feet of customers or other staff shall wear a Face Covering;

f. Employees who are ill shall not be allowed to work; employees who have been exposed to a COVID-19 positive person within the previous 14 days shall not be allowed to work;

g. The business shall not operate without appropriate protective equipment for staff (Face Coverings, gloves for serving and cleaning, etc.), EPA-approved disinfectants and sanitizers, soap and other necessary cleaning supplies;

h. Hand sanitizer shall be available at the entrance to the facility and immediately adjacent to the bathrooms;

i. The facility shall be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected prior to and after each performance; all countertops, seating, armrests, door handles, floors, bathrooms, and any high-touch surfaces must be cleaned and disinfected according to CDC guidelines for cleaning;

j. The business shall maintain a record of staff working hours by date and time for purposes of COVID-19 contact tracing; if such recordkeeping is done manually, sanitizing measures must be taken on the instruments used for recordkeeping in between use;

k. Staff shall sanitize hands between handling payment options; and

l. Food service must follow the provisions for restaurants in paragraph 2 above.

5. For clarity, this Order does not apply to any of the following:
a. Places of public accommodation that offer food and beverage not for on-premises consumption, including grocery stores, markets, retail stores that offer food, convenience stores, pharmacies, drug stores, and food pantries;

b. Room service in hotels;

c. Health care facilities, residential care facilities, congregate care facilities, and juvenile justice facilities;

d. Crisis shelters or similar institutions;

e. Airport concessionaires; and

f. Any emergency facilities necessary for the response to the events surrounding the public health emergency and state of emergency caused by COVID-19.

6. In order to help protect the health and safety of children, child care centers or home daycares may operate only under the following conditions:

a. The child care provider shall ensure that all people (children and providers) wash hands with soap and water upon arrival to the facility;

b. The child care provider shall ensure that staff and children are screened for symptoms of COVID-19 at the beginning of the day on arrival and may not allow any symptomatic individuals to enter the facility;

c. The business shall maintain a record of staff working hours by date and time for purposes of COVID-19 contact tracing; if such recordkeeping is done manually, sanitizing measures must be taken on the instruments used for recordkeeping in between use;

d. In the event of a confirmed case of COVID-19 within the facility, the provider shall consult with health officials on next steps; the provider shall close the facility if determined necessary by health officials;

e. The child care provider shall require individuals dropping off or picking up children to stay 6 feet away from children that the individual is not dropping off or picking up; and

f. The child care provider shall ensure that surfaces and areas that are used and touched often are cleaned and sanitized after each use (e.g. shared toys, keyboards, desks, remote controls) or at least twice a day (e.g. doorknobs, light switches, toilet handles, sink handles, countertops).

7. In addition to the measures noted above, child care centers or home daycares are required to follow all health guidelines from the CDC and Wyoming Department of Health for limiting the risk of transmission of COVID-19, to the extent possible when caring for children.
8. As child care is a critical part of the infrastructure of Wyoming, allowing essential systems to function, in the event a County Health Officer closes a child care facility under the direction and supervision of the State Health Officer, the County Health Officer shall work with local child care providers to make available limited child care services.

9. K-12 schools, colleges, universities, and trade schools may provide on-site instruction to students and allow other use of their facilities under the following conditions:

   a. Groups of students and teachers shall be limited to 50 in each separate room, however, 6 feet of separation between individuals should be maintained as much as possible;

   b. Up to 250 people may be allowed in rooms where 6 feet of separation between individuals can be maintained (including, by way of example, cafeterias, auditoriums, large classrooms);

   c. Students, teachers, and school staff shall wear Face Coverings both indoors and outdoors where 6 feet of separation between individuals cannot be maintained;

   d. The following are excepted from the requirement to wear a Face Covering:

      1. Children who are younger than three years of age;

      2. Individuals with a medical condition, mental health condition, or disability that prevents wearing a Face Covering, including an individual with a medical condition for whom wearing a Face Covering could cause harm or dangerously obstruct breathing; K-12 schools shall require documentation from the student’s parent/guardian, or the student’s medical provider, that the student meets this exception;

      3. Individuals who are unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove a Face Covering without assistance;

      4. Individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing while communicating with others, or individuals who are communicating with an individual who is deaf or hard of hearing, where the ability to see the mouth is essential for communication, in which case it is recommended that a face shield or alternative protection such as a plexiglass barrier be used (a face shield is a personal protective equipment device which protects the person’s entire face from potentially infectious materials);

      5. Individuals who have an Individualized Education Program (IEP) under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 U.S.C. § 1414, or an accommodation under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. § 794, that would necessitate exempting the individual from wearing a Face Covering;
6. Children for whom a Face Covering may interfere with the ability to effectively participate in educational activities or may increase the risk of disease transmission because of increased hand to face contact; or

7. Individuals engaged in athletic activities.

c. Six foot spacing of students during transportation to and from the facility shall be maintained as much as practicable; Face Coverings shall be worn during transportation when six feet of separation cannot be maintained, with the exceptions listed in paragraph d above;

f. Outdoor and indoor events attended by non-students (e.g., parents, families, or members of the public), must comply with the provisions of the “Twenty-Second Continuation, and Modification, of Statewide Public Health Order #2: Regarding Gatherings of More Than Fifty (50) People”;

g. Hand hygiene must be performed frequently within the facility; and

h. Individuals with symptoms of COVID-19, or exposure to an individual with COVID-19 within the last 14 days, may not attend the institution unless otherwise directed by public health officials.

10. Specific exceptions to the restrictions in this Order may be granted, at the discretion of the County Health Officer under the direction and supervision of the State Health Officer, if demonstrated, in writing, to the County Health Officer that effective cleaning and safety measures are implemented. Any specific exception under this paragraph must be approved in writing by the State Health Officer and may be modified or revoked by the County Health Officer under the supervision and direction of the State Health Officer.

11. Countywide variances to the restrictions in this Order may be granted in the form of a Countywide Variance Order if approved and signed by both the County Health Officer and the State Health Officer. Countywide Variance Orders may be less restrictive or more restrictive than the measures imposed in this Order.

12. This Order is entered in conjunction with statewide public health orders titled “Twenty-Second Continuation, and Modification, of Statewide Public Health Order #2: Regarding Gatherings of More Than Fifty (50) People”, entered February 25, 2021, and “Fourth Continuation of Statewide Public Health Order #4: Requiring Face Coverings in Certain Places, with Exceptions”, entered February 25, 2021.

13. This Order does not alter but supplements the requirements outlined in the two other statewide public health orders.
As the State Health Officer, I specifically deem this Order necessary to protect the public health. See Wyo. Stat. Ann. § 35-1-240(a)(i), (ii), (iii), and (iv). I will reassess the necessity of this Order as appropriate to do so and according to accepted epidemiological and medical standards. Any person or legal entity that violates this Order shall be subject to criminal prosecution under Wyo. Stat. Ann. §§ 35-1-105 and -106.


Alexia Harrist
Wyoming State Health Officer
TWENTY-SECOND CONTINUATION, AND MODIFICATION, OF STATEWIDE PUBLIC HEALTH ORDER #2: REGARDING GATHERINGS OF MORE THAN FIFTY (50) PEOPLE

In an effort to stop the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19), the Wyoming Department of Health finds it necessary to protect the health of the public by modifying and continuing certain restrictions as outlined in this Order. Additionally, this Order implements measures in line with the White House unveiling, on April 16, 2020, of certain guidelines for Opening Up America Again - a three-phased approach beginning with State or Regional Gating Criteria and continuing through three phases of removing restrictions when there is no evidence of resurgence of the virus.

The metrics measuring outbreak progress and healthcare system capacity support the Wyoming Department of Health continuing the previous statewide public health orders through a measured and data-based approach (except Statewide Public Health Order #3 which will expire on February 28, 2021, and will not be renewed). As with previous statewide public health orders, this Order continues to authorize countywide variances to the restrictions within this Order, in the form of a Countywide Variance Order, if approved in writing by the County Health Officer and the State Health Officer.

This Order differs from the previous statewide public health order (Twenty-First Continuation), as it authorizes gatherings of 50 people or less, with exceptions, and this Order increases the maximum number of people allowed at certain indoor events (up to 1,000 people) and certain outdoor events (up to 2,000 people), with conditions. This Order also removes several requirements for events and event organizers/hosts. For instance, this Order removes the requirements that events and event organizers/hosts [described in paragraph 6 (pages 4-5)] encourage contactless payment, post signage reminding attendees not to enter if they have symptoms of COVID-19 and reminding attendees to stand at least 6 feet apart, and screen staff and participants prior to the event.

This Order is effective on March 1, 2021, and shall remain in effect through March 15, 2021, unless the Wyoming Department of Health revokes or extends this Order before March 15, 2021.

FINDINGS

1. COVID-19 was first detected in Wuhan, China in 2019, and since then has spread to over 60 countries including the United States. There are 45,801 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Wyoming as of February 24, 2021, as well as the presence of community spread. It is expected that more cases will be diagnosed. There have been 671 deaths among Wyoming residents related to COVID-19.

2. COVID-19 is a respiratory illness, transmitted through person-to-person contact or by contact with surfaces contaminated with the virus. Persons infected with COVID-19 may become symptomatic two to fourteen days after exposure. The symptoms of COVID-19 include fever, cough, and shortness of breath. In some cases, COVID-19 can result in severe disease including hospitalization, admission to an intensive care unit, and death, especially among older adults
and persons with serious underlying health conditions. New information about the implications of this virus is ongoing.


4. On March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared a national emergency concerning the coronavirus, specifically stating that, in “December 2019 a novel (new) coronavirus known as SARS-CoV-2 (“the virus”) was first detected in Wuhan, Hubei Province, People’s Republic of China, causing outbreaks of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) that has now spread globally […] The spread of COVID-19 within our Nation’s communities threatens to strain our Nation’s healthcare systems. […] Additional measures […] are needed to successfully contain and combat the virus in the United States.”


6. Governor Gordon’s Declaration of a State of Emergency and Public Health Emergency directs the Wyoming Department of Health to take all appropriate and necessary actions, and that in the judgment of the Director of the Wyoming Department of Health, any actions necessary should be taken to provide aid to those locations where there is a threat or danger to public health, safety, and welfare.

7. A significant number of Wyoming citizens are at risk of serious health complications, including death, from COVID-19. Although most individuals who contract COVID-19 do not become seriously ill, people with mild symptoms, and even asymptomatic persons with COVID-19, place other vulnerable members of the public at significant risk.

8. A large number of persons with serious infections may compromise the ability of healthcare systems in Wyoming to deliver the necessary healthcare to the public.

9. Wyoming Statute § 35-1-240(a)(i), (ii), (iii), and (iv) provides all the rights and powers for the Wyoming Department of Health, through the State Health Officer, Dr. Alexia Harrist, MD, PhD, or under her directive through other employees of the Wyoming Department of Health, to control the causes of communicable disease; and to forbid gatherings of people when necessary to protect public health.

10. In addition to the above findings, stopping the spread of COVID-19 includes washing your hands often, practicing social distancing by avoiding close contact with others, staying at least six feet away from someone who is ill or showing signs of illness, avoiding touching your face, eyes, nose and mouth, covering your cough or sneeze into your elbow or by using a tissue, and by wearing a face covering when in public.
ORDER

1. As used in this order “Face Covering” means a covering made of cloth, fabric, or other soft or permeable material, without holes, that covers the nose and mouth and surrounding areas of the lower face.

2. Gatherings of more than fifty (50) people are prohibited in order to help stop the spread of COVID-19 and protect the health of the public.

3. “Gatherings” are any planned or spontaneous event, public or private, bringing together, or likely bringing together, more than fifty (50) people in a single room or a single confined space (whether indoor or outdoor) at the same time.

4. If a business or other entity (child care facility, K-12 school, college, university, and trade school) is governed by statewide public health order #1, the restrictions in that order govern those businesses or entities unless otherwise specifically noted herein.

5. Gatherings at the following are exempted from this Order:
   a. Hotels and motels for lodging purposes;
   b. Livestock auctions;
   c. Groups of workers being transported to a location for their jobs;
   d. Government business, military and National Guard facilities, law enforcement, jails, secure treatment centers, and correctional facilities, including any facility operated by the Wyoming Department of Corrections, and any facility used to respond to natural disasters or public health emergencies;
   e. Federal, State, and local government facilities, including government service centers;
   f. Relief facilities, including food pantries and shelter facilities;
   g. Residential buildings, excluding individual household residences;
   h. Grocery stores, markets, convenience stores, pharmacies, drug stores;
   i. Truck stops, gas stations, and auto-repair facilities;
   j. Retail or business establishments, where more than fifty (50) people may be present but are generally not within six (6) feet of one another;
   k. Healthcare facilities, including hospitals, medical facilities, home health agencies, personal care agencies, hospices, adult family homes, mental health centers, and pharmacies;
   l. Alcohol and drug treatment centers;
m. Long-term care and assisted living facilities, including nursing homes and assisted living facilities, as long as the facility complies with guidance and directives from the CDC, the Wyoming Department of Health, and appropriate licensing and regulatory agencies;

n. Religious or faith based organizations and funeral homes; and

o. Parades.

6. Events not specifically identified by name or type within this Order may allow indoor gatherings of more than 50 people but no more than 25% of venue capacity with a maximum of 1,000 people. Events not specifically identified by name or type within this Order may allow outdoor gatherings of more than 50 people but no more than 50% of venue capacity with a maximum of 2,000 people. Events allowed under this paragraph are subject to the following conditions, to be enforced by the host or organizer of the event. These events include by way of example but are not limited to rodeos, speedway motor races, concerts, organized sporting events, fairs, track and field races, farmer’s markets, fireworks shows, weddings, and any other event of a similar nature.

a. Groups of attendees seated or standing together must be limited to 10, however, an event may make exceptions for groups greater than 10 if the group is solely comprised of members from the same household;

b. A 6-foot distance must be maintained between individual groups at all times, including but not limited to entrances, exits, concessions, ticket booths, and restrooms;

c. Staff, hosts, organizers, or event participants with symptoms of illness, or known exposure to a person with COVID-19 infection within the previous 14 days, shall not participate in the event;

d. The entire event facility, to the extent there are facilities, shall be cleaned thoroughly, including all high touch areas before and after each event, according to CDC guidelines for cleaning;

e. Staff who come within 6 feet of event attendees or other staff must wear a Face Covering;

f. In the event the required 6 feet of distance between individual groups cannot be maintained, Face Coverings must be worn during the event, to the greatest extent possible, unless wearing a Face Covering is specifically required by Statewide Public Health Order #4: Requiring Face Coverings in Certain Places, with Exceptions;

g. The event shall not take place without appropriate protective equipment for staff (Face Coverings, gloves for serving and cleaning, etc.), EPA-approved disinfectants and sanitizers, soap and other necessary cleaning supplies;

h. Food and beverage service shall follow the provisions for restaurants in the Twenty-Second Continuation, and Modification, of Statewide Public Health Order #1 Regarding Bars,
Restaurants, Theaters, Gymnasiums, Child Care Facilities, K-12 Schools, Colleges, Universities, and Trade Schools;

i. Participants in organized sporting events and artistic performances shall not congregate in groups larger than 50 individuals. This means that participants (up to 50 individuals) may interact with each other in direct close proximity without physical distancing;

j. For clarity, the person limit in paragraph 6 (page 4) is not calculated by adding participants and spectators/attendees together.

7. Additional specific gathering exceptions to the restrictions in this Order may be granted, at the discretion of the County Health Officer, under the direction and supervision of the State Health Officer, if demonstrated, in writing, to the County Health Officer that people at the gathering will maintain at least six (6) feet of space between one another, and that effective sanitation will be performed before and after the gathering. Any specific exception under this paragraph must be approved in writing by the State Health Officer, and may be modified or revoked by the County Health Officer under the supervision and direction of the State Health Officer.

8. Countywide variances to the prohibitions mandated in this Order may be granted in the form of a Countywide Variance Order if approved and signed by both the County Health Officer and the State Health Officer. Countywide Variance Orders may be less restrictive (or more restrictive) than the measures imposed in this Order.

9. This Order is entered in conjunction with the statewide public health orders titled “Twenty-Second Continuation, and Modification, of Statewide Public Health Order Regarding Bars, Restaurants, Theaters, Gymnasiums, Child Care Facilities, K-12 Schools, Colleges, Universities, and Trade Schools”, entered February 25, 2021 and “Fourth Continuation of Statewide Public Health Order #4: Requiring Face Coverings in Certain Places, with Exceptions”, entered February 25, 2021.

10. This Order does not alter but supplements the requirements outlined in the two other statewide public health orders.

As the State Health Officer, I specifically deem this Order necessary to protect the public health. See Wyo. Stat. Ann. § 35-1-240(a)(i), (ii), (iii), and (iv). I will reassess the necessity of this Order as appropriate to do so and according to accepted epidemiological and medical standards. Any person or legal entity that violates this Order shall be subject to criminal prosecution under Wyo. Stat. Ann. §§ 35-1-105 and -106.


Alexia Harrist
Wyoming State Health Officer
FOURTH CONTINUATION OF STATEWIDE PUBLIC HEALTH ORDER #4: REQUIRING FACE COVERINGS IN CERTAIN PLACES, WITH EXCEPTIONS

In an effort to stop the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19), the Wyoming Department of Health finds it necessary to protect the health of the public by issuing this Order. Additionally, this Order implements measures in line with the White House unveiling, on April 16, 2020, of certain guidelines for Opening Up America Again - a three-phased approach beginning with State or Regional Gating Criteria and continuing through three phases of removing restrictions when there is no evidence of resurgence of the virus.

The metrics measuring outbreak progress and healthcare system capacity support the Wyoming Department of Health continuing the previous statewide public health orders through a measured and data-based approach (except Statewide Public Health Order #3 which will expire on February 28, 2021, and will not be renewed). As with previous statewide public health orders, this Order continues to authorize countywide variances to the restrictions within this Order, in the form of a Countywide Variance Order, if approved in writing by the County Health Officer and the State Health Officer. This Order specifically continues the requirement that individuals wear Face Coverings in certain places, with exceptions.

This Order is effective on March 1, 2021, and shall remain in effect through March 15, 2021, unless the Wyoming Department of Health revokes or extends this Order before March 15, 2021.

FINDINGS

1. COVID-19 was first detected in Wuhan, China in 2019, and since then has spread to over 60 countries including the United States. There are 45,801 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Wyoming as of February 24, 2021, as well as the presence of community spread. It is expected that more cases will be diagnosed. There have been 671 deaths among Wyoming residents related to COVID-19.

2. COVID-19 is a respiratory illness, transmitted through person-to-person contact or by contact with surfaces contaminated with the virus. Persons infected with COVID-19 may become symptomatic two to fourteen days after exposure. The symptoms of COVID-19 include fever, cough, and shortness of breath. In some cases, COVID-19 can result in severe disease including hospitalization, admission to an intensive care unit, and death, especially among older adults and persons with serious underlying health conditions. New information about the implications of this virus is ongoing.


4. On March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared a national emergency concerning the coronavirus, specifically stating that, in “December 2019 a novel (new) coronavirus known as SARS-CoV-2 (“the virus”) was first detected in Wuhan, Hubei Province, People’s Republic of China, causing outbreaks of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) that has now spread globally [...] The spread of COVID-19 within our Nation’s
communities threatens to strain our Nation’s healthcare systems. [...] Additional measures [...] are needed to successfully contain and combat the virus in the United States.”


6. Governor Gordon’s Declaration of a State of Emergency and Public Health Emergency directs the Wyoming Department of Health to take all appropriate and necessary actions, and that in the judgment of the Director of the Wyoming Department of Health, any actions necessary should be taken to provide aid to those locations where there is a threat or danger to public health, safety, and welfare.

7. A significant number of Wyoming citizens are at risk of serious health complications, including death, from COVID-19. Although most individuals who contract COVID-19 do not become seriously ill, people with mild symptoms, and even asymptomatic persons with COVID-19, place other vulnerable members of the public at significant risk.

8. A large number of persons with serious infections may compromise the ability of the healthcare systems in Wyoming to deliver the necessary healthcare to the public.

9. Respiratory droplets from infected individuals are a major mode of COVID-19. This understanding is the basis of the recommendations for physical distancing, and of the PPE guidance for healthcare workers. Droplets do not only come from coughing or sneezing; in a-/pre-symptomatic individuals, droplets are generated via talking and breathing.

10. Face Coverings reduce droplet dispersal and cloth-coverings reduce emission of particles by variable amounts.

11. Evidence indicates that wearing Face Coverings reduce the transmissibility per contact by reducing transmission of infected droplets.

12. The most comprehensive, systematic review of meta-analysis of Face Coverings published to date has found that Face Coverings reduce risk of transmission of COVID-19 by an expected 85%.

13. Guidelines published by the CDC on April 3, 2020, recommend that all people wear cloth Face Coverings in public settings where other physical distancing measures may be difficult to maintain. The CDC also advises the use of a simple Face Covering to slow the spread of the virus and help people who may have the virus and do not know from transmitting it to others.

14. Wyoming Statute § 35-1-240(a)(i), (ii), (iii), and (iv) provides all the rights and powers for the Wyoming Department of Health, through the State Health Officer, Dr. Alexia Harrist, MD, PhD, or under her directive through other employees of the Wyoming Department of Health, to control the causes of communicable disease, including by requiring that Face Coverings be worn in certain places.
15. In addition to the above findings, stopping the spread of COVID-19 includes washing your hands often, practicing social distancing by avoiding close contact with others, staying at least six feet away from someone who is ill or showing signs of illness, avoiding touching your face, eyes, nose and mouth, covering your cough or sneeze into your elbow or by using a tissue, and by wearing a Face Covering when in public.

**ORDER**

1. As used in this order “Face Covering” means a covering made of cloth, fabric, or other soft or permeable material, without holes, that covers the nose and mouth and surrounding areas of the lower face.

2. Pursuant to Wyo. Stat. Ann. § 35-1-240(a)(i), (ii), (iii), and (iv), beginning on March 1, 2021, and continuing through March 15, 2021, unless revoked or extended by the Wyoming Department of Health before March 15, 2021, individuals within the State of Wyoming shall wear a Face Covering in certain places as further described below.

3. “Business” means any business entity (Retail or commercial) that employs or engages workers or volunteers.

4. Except as specifically exempted below, all members of the public must wear a Face Covering outside their home or other place of residence in the following situations:

   a. When any person is inside, or in line to enter, any business, or any government facility open to the general public, including state, county, and municipal buildings but excluding federal buildings; or

   b. When any person is obtaining services at, or visiting healthcare operations, including, but not limited to, hospitals, clinics, and walk-in health facilities, dentists, pharmacies, blood banks, other healthcare facilities, behavioral health providers, and facilities providing veterinary and similar healthcare services for animals; or

   c. When any person is waiting for or riding on public transportation or paratransit, or while they are riding in a taxi, private car service, shuttle, tour, or ride-sharing vehicle. The driver shall also wear a Face Covering when passengers are in the vehicle.

5. All businesses must post notices, in a clearly visible location at or near the entrance of the business, stating that Face Coverings are required.

6. All government facilities open to the public, including state, county, and municipal buildings, but excluding federal buildings, must post notices, in a clearly visible location at or near the entrance of the building, that Face Coverings are required.

7. All employees, owners, and volunteers of businesses and employees and volunteers of government facilities open to the public, including state, county, and municipal buildings but
excluding federal buildings, shall wear Face Coverings at their business or government facility when they are within 6 feet of customers, clients, other staff/workers, or volunteers. They must also wear a Face Covering when working or volunteering in a space that could be visited by members of the public, such as by way of example, but not limited to: reception areas, hallways, grocery store aisles, service counters, public restrooms, cashier and checkout areas, waiting rooms, service areas, and other spaces that could be used by members of the public.

8. A Face Covering is not required under the following circumstances:

   a. When a person is in a personal office (a single room) where others outside of that person’s household are not present as long as the public does not regularly visit the room, but that individual must put on a Face Covering when they are within 6 feet of a client, customer, volunteer, worker, or other member of the public.

   b. Children who are under 12 years of age. However, children 3 to 11 years of age are encouraged to wear Face Coverings.

   c. When a person is seated at a table of a restaurant or other food service venue, the person is separated by at least 6 feet from other patrons at other tables, and no more than 10 people in total are seated at the table. If more than 10 individuals are seated at the table, but all individuals are members of the same household, this exception applies. This exception also applies if a person is seated at a booth. However, individuals shall wear a Face Covering while entering, exiting, or otherwise moving about the establishment.

   d. When a person is inside or obtaining services at a location engaged primarily in providing congregate care, residential health care, or shelter care, and the individual is engaged in activities not conducive to wearing a Face Covering, such as eating or drinking, or the individual is in an area of that facility that is not designed for community gathering, such as a sleeping area.

   e. If a person has a medical condition, mental health condition, or disability that prevents him or her from wearing a Face Covering. This includes, by way of example, but is not limited to, persons with a medical condition for whom wearing a Face Covering could obstruct breathing or who are unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove a Face Covering without assistance. A person is not required to provide any documentation demonstrating that the person cannot wear a Face Covering for any medical condition, mental health condition, or disability.

   f. Individuals who are hearing impaired, or communicating with an individual who is hearing impaired, where the ability to see the mouth is essential for communication.

   g. Individuals for whom wearing a Face Covering would create a risk to the individual related to their work, as determined by local, state, or federal workplace safety guidelines.
h. Individuals who are obtaining a service involving the nose or face for which temporary removal of the Face Covering is necessary to perform the service.

i. Individuals who are purchasing a product or receiving a service that requires identification may briefly remove a Face Covering as necessary, so that the retailer or service provider can verify identity.

j. When actively exercising in a gym in accordance with the Statewide Public Health Orders, as amended.

k. When law enforcement asks an individual to remove a Face Covering for identification purposes.

9. Countywide variances to the restrictions in this Order may be granted in the form of a Countywide Variance Order if approved in writing and signed by both the County Health Officer and the State Health Officer. Countywide Variance Orders may be less restrictive or more restrictive than the measures imposed in this Order.

10. This Order is entered in conjunction with the statewide public health orders titled “Twenty-Second Continuation, and Modification, of Statewide Public Health Order Regarding Bars, Restaurants, Theaters, Gymnasiums, Child Care Facilities, K-12 Schools, Colleges, Universities, and Trade Schools”, entered February 25, 2021 and “Twenty-Second Continuation, and Modification, of Statewide Public Health Order #2: Regarding Gatherings of More Than Fifty (50) People”, entered February 25, 2021.

11. This Order does not alter but supplements the requirements outlined in the two other statewide public health orders.

12. The Wyoming State Health Officer may grant exceptions to this Order, on a case-by-case basis after evaluating the request.

13. This Order supersedes all individual county health orders requiring Face Coverings.

As the State Health Officer, I specifically deem this Order necessary to protect the public health. See Wyo. Stat. Ann. § 35-1-240(a)(i), (ii), (iii), and (iv). I will reassess the necessity of this Order as appropriate to do so and according to accepted epidemiological and medical standards. Any person or legal entity that violates this Order shall be subject to criminal prosecution under Wyo. Stat. Ann. §§ 35-1-105 and -106.


Alexia Harrist
Wyoming State Health Officer