

Jefferson County Public Health Order 20-009 Frequently Asked Questions FINAL

1. Why did JCPH issue the new Public Health Order 20-009?

On October 16, the county surpassed its two-week case count limits outlined under Level 2 in the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's (CDPHE) Dial Framework. Cases have continued to increase and have remained beyond the limit, and the County's two-week grace period is almost over. In order to avoid automatically being moved to Level 3 of the Dial Framework, JCPH is required to submit a comprehensive mitigation plan outlining how the County will work to reduce its cases back within permitted limits. JCPH issued PHO 20-009 as a core part of the County's COVID-19 mitigation plan.

2. How long do we have to mitigate before CDPHE moves Jefferson County to Level 3?

According to CDPHE, there is no definitive mitigation timeline and movement on the Dial Framework depends on how successful individual counties' mitigation plans are at slowing the spread. However, the average permitted mitigation timeframe has been about 10-14 days.

3. What does relinquishing the Jefferson County variance mean for businesses?

Businesses and activities not specifically addressed under JCPH's PHO 20-009 must now follow the Level 2 requirements under [CDPHE's Fourth Amended Safer at Home Dial Public Health Order \(20-35\)](#). For businesses and activities that were previously under the local variance, this means the following changes are now in effect:

- **Breweries and similar facilities:** Must be closed unless they serve food from a licensed food establishment. If food is served, they may operate as a restaurant at 25% capacity, not to exceed 50 people per room.
- **Gyms and recreation centers:** Limited to 25% capacity, not to exceed 50 people per room.
- **Outdoor recreation:** Guided activities limited to 50% capacity, not to exceed 10 people; Outdoor recreation limited to 25% capacity, not to exceed 50 people, with social distancing.
- **Recreational Sports:** Limited to 25 players, excluding coaches and umpires.
- **Graduations:** Limited to 50% capacity, not to exceed 50 people per room. Outdoor graduations are capped by JCPH.
- **Museums (Butterfly Pavilion & Chatfield Farms):** Open under indoor events guidance.

4. Do Jefferson County's two site-specific variances (Denver Botanic Gardens at Chatfield and Butterfly Pavilion) remain in place?

No; however, these sites are permitted to remain open but must follow indoor events guidance outlined in [CDPHE's Fourth Amended Safer at Home Dial Public Health Order \(20-35\)](#). Additionally, per PHO 20-009, indoor events are capped at no more than 25 people per room within their usable space as calculated by the [Social Distancing Space Calculator](#).

5. Are alcohol sales prohibited after 10 p.m. at liquor stores or other retail stores, too?

No. This order specifically prohibits alcohol beverage sales at 10:00 p.m. for restaurants, bars and breweries (that sell food) and similar venues.

6. How does the new order affect events?

PHO 20-009 caps the number of attendees at events at the Level 3 thresholds and prohibits events from having more than one room, designated activity or area. Therefore, indoor events may have up to 25 attendees within the usable space of the room, as calculated by the [Social Distancing Space Calculator](#), excluding staff. Outdoor events may have up to 75 attendees within the usable space of the outdoor venue, as calculated by the [Social Distancing Space Calculator](#), excluding staff. If the event is a seated event in which attendees may only get up for things like using the restroom or to get limited concessions, then the event organizer does not need to use the calculator and may have the maximum number of attendees in the room so long as 6 feet of distance may be maintained between non-household members.

7. What if I have a large building with multiple rooms? Can I only have one event at a time?

No. If you have a building with multiple rooms, you can hold *separate* events in the separate rooms. However, the attendees of those separate events should not commingle to the greatest extent possible. The intent of the Order is for the events to be truly separate; you cannot have one large event spread across multiple rooms in the same facility in order to exceed the cap of 25 attendees per indoor event.

8. Does the new order rescind PHO 20-007, which requires pre-approval of large events with more than one designated activity?

PHO 20-007 is no longer applicable. Outdoor events are limited to no more than 75 people, and indoor events to no more than 25 people, within their usable space as calculated by the [Social Distancing Space Calculator](#). Events may no longer have more than one room, designated activity or area, which would allow them to exceed the cap on attendees set forth in PHO 20-009.

9. Does the new order affect other businesses or critical government functions?

No. PHO 20-009 only affects events, which are defined in PHO 20-35 Section IV, spectators at high school sporting events, and businesses such as restaurants which sell alcohol for on-premises consumption. Critical government functions, including courts, will continue to function as normal.

10. Do the spectator limits for high school sporting events apply to both private and public schools?

Yes. Every school that has high school sports, regardless of whether that school is public, private, charter, or is a member of CHSAA, is subject to the prohibition on spectators at high school sporting events.

11. Do the spectator limits for high school sports apply to cheer/spirit squads and pep bands?

No. Cheer/spirit squads are considered a team that is subject to sports guidance and pep bands are considered an extra-curricular activity subject to club guidance. Therefore, cheer/spirit squads and pep bands are permitted at high school sporting activities so long as they follow the guidance for their activity.

12. Does the new order affect voting in any way?

No. Voting is a critical government function, so it may continue to occur. Please wear a mask and follow social distancing requirements as you wait in line and vote at your local polling location.