Thursday, August 27, 2020
Chaffee County Public Health (CCPH) COVID-19 Update

Please follow these situational awareness reports, which currently are released on Mondays and Thursdays. You can find additional updates on our Facebook page, on the county website and on the Chaffee County COVID-19 Dashboard. We will continue to work closely with our local media to push out timely and accurate information. FYI: Over the weekends, the CCPH staff takes a break from social media.

5 Commitments to Containment

In Chaffee County we:

• Maintain 6 feet of physical distance
• Wash our hands often
• Properly wear face coverings in public
• Get tested if we have symptoms
• Stay home when sick

For more information on the COVID-19 response in Chaffee County, visit http://www.chaffecounty.org/Public-Health-Coronavirus.
Or call 719-539-4510.
During a pandemic, it's important to balance the risk of disease with the desire and necessity to continue living our lives. With every activity you choose to participate in, ask yourself:

- What is the risk level of the activity?
- Is there a safer alternative (outdoors, smaller group)?
- Do the benefits of participating in the activity outweigh the risk of potentially being exposed?
- What is the current community spread in my area?
- Is anyone vulnerable (myself or others in my group)?

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Or call 719-539-4510.

[Message about Labor Day weekend](#)
Mask Tips

Guidance for wearing masks from the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment

Community Testing Clinics in Salida and Buena Vista
Chaffee County Public Health, in collaboration with Chaffee County EMS, hosts weekly free COVID-19 Community Testing Clinics.

- The Tuesday and Thursday clinics are held in Salida at the Touber Building at 448 E. First St. from 9:30-11 a.m.
- The Wednesday clinic is held from 9-11 a.m. in Buena Vista at 114 Linderman Ave. (subject to cancellation if the headcount is too low)

Testing is by appointment only. Appointments must be scheduled by close of business the day before the testing clinic will be held. Criteria for testing includes:

- Any community member (or others who consider Chaffee County their medical home) who is showing symptoms.
- Any asymptomatic patient who has a known contact (within 6 feet, greater than 15 minutes) with a positive case or has traveled in an area with high rates of transmission. This does not include secondary contacts.
- All healthcare workers, first responders, senior care facility workers, and essential workers who directly interact with the public while working, whether or not those individuals have symptoms or not.
If you are interested in testing, call us at 719-539-4510 to be screened and scheduled for testing.

The current wait time for test results is 2-7 days.

Those with severe respiratory symptoms should contact their primary care provider directly.

Heart of the Rockies Regional Medical Center Update
HRRMC updates can be found on the Chaffee County COVID-19 Dashboard.

On Aug. 21, the state health department launched an updated dashboard and published data on hospital patient trends. Outbreaks are reportable to the state and will be listed on the state dashboard.

For information related to the Buena Vista Correctional Complex, please refer to their outbreak website at:

Chaffee County Public Health Urges Support for Isolation and Quarantine

Isolation and quarantine are two of the basic tenets of controlling disease transmission. Isolation separates sick people with a contagious disease from people who are not sick. Quarantine separates and restricts the movements of people who were exposed to a contagious disease to see if they become sick.

In the case of COVID-19, positive cases typically isolate for 10 days, though severe cases may need to isolate for up to 20 days. Close contacts quarantine for 14 days from the date of their last exposure to the positive case. A close contact is defined as any individual who was within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes starting from 2 days prior to onset of symptoms (or for asymptomatic patients, 2 days prior to positive specimen collection) until the time the positive case’s isolation period is complete.
Isolation and quarantine are two of our most powerful tools when trying to stop the spread of COVID-19. Unfortunately, they also can be very disruptive for all those who are involved. Someone who is quarantined is asked to stay home from work, avoid all social gatherings, and even find alternatives for such essential tasks like grocery shopping.

If a close contact does not follow quarantine guidelines, there is the potential that they spread COVID-19 amongst their family, friends and coworkers if they become infected. If those contacts don’t follow quarantine guidelines, they may spread it amongst their family, friends and coworkers. The spread of COVID-19 has the potential to grow exponentially every time isolation and quarantine orders are ignored.

Employers of every size can assist Public Health by supporting the isolation and quarantine of employees within their workplace. We recognize how disruptive and challenging this is for employers, but the alternative is much more complicated.

Imagine this scenario. An employee comes to work on Monday without symptoms but becomes symptomatic Monday night and is diagnosed with COVID-19. Through contact tracing the positive employee lists 10 coworkers as close contacts. Those 10 coworkers may become sick, or may not, but we won’t know until at least two weeks have passed, because COVID can incubate in the body for up to 14 days. If two of those coworkers were to become symptomatic but did not quarantine (or quarantined for too short of a period), we then need to look at their close contacts beginning from 2 days before symptom onset. If each of those cases had 10 close contacts, suddenly that business has 30 close contacts instead of the original 10.

Public Health will work directly with positive cases and their employers to determine who needs to be quarantined and until what date.

Public Health Director Andrea Carlstrom states, “If businesses and their employees are willing to abide by isolation and quarantine guidelines, we believe disruption to our business community will ultimately be quite small. Until we have a vaccine and treatment for COVID-19, we all must work together as a community to support those who are asked to isolate or quarantine.”

For more information on best practices for preventing and reducing the severity of outbreaks in the workplace, visit the [Colorado COVID Website](http://www.colorado.gov/covid). For a list of local resources available to you and your employees in the event of quarantine, visit the [Chaffee County COVID Website](http://www.chaffeecounty.org/covid).

### Chaffee County by the Numbers

Our [Chaffee County COVID-19 Dashboard](http://www.chaffeecounty.org/covid) provides real-time updates and provides the most current information regarding COVID-19 in our county. It is a work in progress and there are several other metrics that we hope to add in the future. We ask for your patience as we continue strengthening this tool. If you have feedback regarding the dashboard, please use this [form](http://www.chaffeecounty.org/covid).
The county’s positivity rate is approximately 3.3% for Aug. 11 to Aug. 25.

Graphs of Reported Cases
Guidance for Primary and Secondary Contacts

As we are still at risk in our community, we need to continue to wear masks, practice social distancing, wash our hands often and stay home when we are sick.

Despite being vigilant, you may still encounter someone who just tested positive for COVID-19. See the graphic below, which explains what primary and secondary contacts should do in regard to quarantining and testing.
Updates from Governor Polis

On Aug. 26, Gov. Polis shared the status of the eight wildfires in Colorado, in addition to the state’s response to COVID-19. He also made an announcement about the Special Evictions Prevention Task Force, as well as the Energize Colorado Gap Fund. The Gap Fund will provide loans, grants, and other financial relief for small businesses. The application launches Monday, Aug. 31.

Current Public Health Orders

Executive Order on Masks 8.14.20
Governor Jared Polis extended and amended an Executive Order requiring Coloradans to wear face coverings. The Executive Order expires 30 days from Aug. 14.

Executive Order on Masks FAQ
Chaffee County Amended Public Health Order 8.4.20
Colorado’s 6th Amended Public Health Order
Colorado Safer at Home and in the Vast, Great Outdoors Order 6.1.2020

We are Hiring!
We are looking for a firm that can build off of the current Chaffee County COVID-19 Data Dashboard and provide even more critical metrics to our community.
For further details, click here.

For local resources related to COVID-19, visit www.chaffecounty.org and click the RED COVID-19 button.