

**NOTICE OF JEFFERSON COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH ORDER 20-003
LIMITING P-12 SCHOOL ACCESS AND PROHIBITING
P-12 SPORTS ACTIVITIES IN JEFFERSON COUNTY**

Jefferson County Public Health (JCPH) is working to stop the spread of coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19). To support this effort, in conjunction with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE), I find it necessary to issue JCPH Order 20-003, which limits P-12 school access and prohibits P-12 sports activities in Jefferson County, Colorado in an effort to protect and preserve the public health.

FINDINGS

1. COVID-19 was first detected in Wuhan, China in late 2019, and since then has spread to over 60 countries, including the United States. As of April 27, 2020, there are 13,879 known positive cases of COVID-19 state-wide in Colorado, and 1,304 known positive cases in Jefferson County, Colorado, as well as 706 deaths related to COVID-19 state-wide and 65 deaths in Jefferson County.

2. COVID-19 is a respiratory illness transmitted like other respiratory illness through person-to-person contact or by contact with surfaces contaminated with the virus. Persons infected with COVID-19 may become symptomatic anywhere from two to fourteen days after exposure. Symptoms include fever, cough or shortness of breath or difficulty breathing. Individuals with serious chronic health conditions and older adults are most at risk for becoming very ill with this disease.

3. On March 10, 2020, the Governor of Colorado declared a State of Emergency relating to the presence of COVID-19.

4. On March 13, 2020, the Chairman of the Jefferson County Board of County Commissioners declared a COVID-19 Local Disaster Emergency, which was extended by the full Board of County Commissioners through Resolution CC20-055 on March 16, 2020, until April 16, 2020, unless sooner amended, extended, or rescinded by the Board.

5. On March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared a National Emergency due to COVID-19.

ORDER

6. April 26, 2020, Governor Polis issued Executive Order D 2020 044, which authorizes P-12 schools and school districts to use school buildings for certain limited purposes as identified therein in section II.A. In that Order, Governor Polis indicated that P-12 schools and school districts intending to provide these limited services must work

in coordination with their local public health agency and must observe Social Distancing Requirements pursuant to applicable to public health orders.


7. Today, I issue JCPH Order 20-003 to provide further limitations on the services that may be provided in school buildings during the term of this Order. Specifically, notwithstanding EO D 2020 044, public and private schools and school districts in Jefferson County may not use school buildings to provide in-person small group instruction, staff professional development, access to internet, devices or instructional materials, special education services or mental health supports unless persons providing those services can (1) ensure Social Distancing Requirements are met; and (2) the providers receive pre-approval to provide such services from the Jefferson County School District R-1's leadership team for any public school in the district or the school leadership for any private school located in Jefferson County.

8. Additionally, to further protect those in Jefferson County, I hereby order that all P-12 team sports activities and events shall be prohibited through July 31, 2020.

9. Nothing in this Order shall be construed to be less restrictive than any State order.

Along with CDPHE, JCPH is tasked with protecting the health and welfare of the citizens of Jefferson County by investigating and controlling cases of epidemic and communicable disease. This Order is necessary to control any potential transmission of disease to others. Immediate issuance of this Order is necessary for the preservation of public health, safety, or welfare. JCPH Public Health Order 20-003 shall be in effect from April 28, 2020, at 12:01 a.m., and continuing until midnight on July 31, 2020, unless earlier amended, extended, or rescinded by the Director of JCPH.

FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THIS ORDER IS SUBJECT TO PENALTIES CONTAINED IN C.R.S. § 25-1-114.1 and 25-1-516, INCLUDING A FINE OF UP TO ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS AND IMPRISONMENT IN THE COUNTY JAIL FOR UP TO ONE YEAR.


Mark B. Johnson, MD, MPH
Executive Director, Jefferson County Public Health

April 28, 2020
Date