

Frequently Asked Questions Jefferson County Public Health Orders 21-004 & 21-005 November 17, 2021

About Public Health Order 21-004

1. What is required by Public Health Order 21-004?

On October 7, the [Jefferson County Board of Health](#) voted to approve [Public Health Order 21-004](#), which requires that all individuals ages 2+ wear a mask in all indoor spaces at all county and municipal buildings.

2. When does Public Health Order 21-004 go into effect?

[Public Health Order 21-004](#) went into effect on October 9.

3. Who does Public Health Order 21-004 apply to?

[Public Health Order 21-004](#) applies to everyone aged 2 and older entering a Public Indoor Local Government Space (unless they are exempt pursuant to Section 3 of the Order or actively engaged in an activity described in Section 4 of the Order). Public Indoor Local Government Space means any enclosed indoor area that is publicly owned, leased, managed or operated by a county or municipal government to which individuals have access by right or by invitation, express or implied, or that is accessible to the public, serves as a place of employment, or is otherwise providing government services.

4. Does Public Health Order 21-004 apply to recreation centers?

No, recreation centers, including those operated by special districts like parks and recreation districts, are not subject to [Public Health Order 21-004](#).

5. Are there any exemptions to Public Health Order 21-004?

Individuals in a non-public, defined workspace within a county or municipal building in which 90 percent of the individuals present in that space have shown proof of full vaccination are exempt from Public Health Order 21-004. Additional exemptions to the mask requirement are outlined in Sections 3 and 4 in [Public Health Order 21-004](#).

6. How long will Public Health Order 21-004 stay in effect?

[Public Health Order 21-004](#) shall be in effect during all periods of time in which the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) categorizes the county's seven-day COVID-19 metrics result in Level of Community Transmission as High or Substantial. [View the CDC's COVID-19 Integrated County View website](#), which shows the seven-day metrics of key data for monitoring the COVID-19 pandemic in the United States.

7. Does JCPH have signage organizations can use in their buildings?

Yes, JCPH has prepared signage in English and Spanish you can use to communicate about Public Health Order 21-004 on our [Communications Toolkit page](#). You can also see <https://covid19.colorado.gov/print-materials> for sample print materials.

8. Where can I get more information about masks?

For additional information about masks, including the science that supports masks work to prevent COVID-19 transmission and where to get one, is available on the JCPH website at www.jeffco.us/4056/Mask-Guidance.

About Public Health Order 21-005

9. What is required by Public Health Order 21-005?

[Public Health Order 21-005](#) requires that all Local Government Workers get tested for COVID-19 weekly (every 7 days) in order to report to work in person. County and municipal government workers can opt out of the testing requirement by submitting proof of full vaccination to their employer (unless their employer chooses to require routine testing for everyone).

10. When does Public Health Order 21-005 go into effect?

[Public Health Order 21-005](#) goes into effect on November 1. County and municipal government workers will need to have their first negative test (or proof of full vaccination to opt out of the testing requirement) by November 1.

11. Who does Public Health Order 21-005 apply to?

[Public Health Order 21-005](#) applies to all Local Government Workers. Local Government means Jefferson County and any municipality within Jefferson County. Local Government does not include school districts or special districts. A Local Government Worker is any full-time, part-time, temporary, or limited employee, and shall also include any contractors or volunteers who perform any work functions on behalf of local government or any of its appointed or elected officials. Workers who engage in remote work 100% of the time are not subject to the testing requirements of Public Health Order 21-005.

12. How long will Public Health Order 21-005 stay in effect?

[Public Health Order 21-005](#) shall be in effect during all periods of time in which the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) categorizes the county's seven-day COVID-19 metrics result in Level of Community Transmission as High or Substantial. [View the CDC's COVID-19 Integrated County View website](#), which shows the seven-day metrics of key data for monitoring the COVID-19 pandemic in the United States.

13. I volunteer with a local government organization, but I am not employed by them. Do I have to follow Public Health Order 21-005?

Yes, the Order applies to volunteers who perform any work functions on behalf of a county and municipal government organization.

14. I am a contractor with a local government organization, but I am not employed by them. Do I have to follow Public Health Order 21-005?

Yes, the Order applies to contractors who perform any work functions on behalf of a county and municipal government organization.

15. Are visitors to Jefferson County facilities required to show a negative test or be fully vaccinated?

No.

16. Are there exemptions to Public Health Order 21-005?

Those who are exempt from the weekly testing requirement include:

- Unless a Local Government employer requires weekly testing regardless of vaccination status, Workers who have opted out of the weekly testing requirement by submitting proof of full vaccination to their employer.
- Local Government Workers who engage in remote work 100% of the time. However, if and when a Worker plans to return in-person to the worksite, they must first submit a negative COVID-19 test or proof of full vaccination.
- Employees requesting a reasonable accommodation based on a medical or religious exemption should follow their employer's guidance on how to do so.

17. What types of COVID-19 tests are permitted to meet the weekly testing requirements in Public Health Order 21-005?

The following means of testing are permitted:

- Molecular tests (PCR), a molecular amplification test to detect viral genetic material from the virus that causes COVID-19.
- Antigen tests, a rapid test to detect fragments of proteins found on or within the virus that causes COVID-19.
- Tests must have the ability to be proctored.

18. Public Health Order 21-005 requires that local government employers use COVID-19 tests that can be proctored. What does "proctored" mean, and how can I tell if a specific test has the ability to be proctored?

Tests must have the ability to be proctored. However, there is no requirement for tests to be proctored.

A test is proctored when a trained professional observes the sample and testing so that the integrity of the test can be maintained. In this case, they are trained in an individual brand of a COVID-19 test. To ensure a third-party test supports proctoring (either in-person or virtually), check the test's product information. If not included, contact either support or the manufacturer, as this will vary between test types. All tests at [JCPH community vaccination sites](#) are proctored. [Click here](#) to see the full list of tests that have received emergency use authorization (EUA) from the FDA.

19. Where can I get tested?

Please [see this list for FREE locations](#) where you can get a PCR test in Jeffco. Employers may also specify the testing option(s) available to workers within its organization. Additional testing guidance is available on JCPH's website at www.jeffco.us/testing.

20. How should Local Government Workers submit COVID-19 tests results to their employer?

Local government employers can specify how their employers should submit test results.

21. Who pays for COVID-19 testing?

There are many [free testing options](#) across Jefferson County. Employers may also specify the testing option(s) available to workers within its organization, and costs for those options would be the responsibility of the employer.

22. I am not vaccinated. Do I have to get tested weekly even if I recently had COVID-19 (within 90 days)?

Yes, for purposes of the Public Health Order, unvaccinated employees must submit to weekly testing regardless of a recent positive COVID-19 test. [Public Health Order 21-005](#) only permits Local Government Workers to opt out of the testing requirement if they submit proof of full vaccination to their employer.

If you test positive for COVID-19, regardless of your vaccination status, you MUST isolate for 10 full days from either the date of symptom onset OR the date of the test if you had no symptoms at all. You can return to work after your isolation period is complete, but you must resume weekly testing.

Scientists are still learning more about how long you might be immune after recovering from COVID-19. Additionally, individual immune responses may be different for different people. Early evidence suggests natural immunity from COVID-19 may not last very long in some people, and cases of reinfection have been reported.

23. How should I show proof that I am fully vaccinated to my employer?

Local government employers can specify how their employers should submit proof of full vaccination.

24. What does being fully vaccinated mean?

An individual is considered fully vaccinated two calendar weeks after they have received all required doses of the prescribed COVID-19 vaccine. Unless an individual is fully vaccinated, they are considered unvaccinated.

25. What counts as proof of vaccination?

Your COVID-19 vaccination card is your proof of vaccination. If you lost your card, please see the next question for guidance on how to obtain proof of vaccination through acceptable sources.

26. What if I lost my COVID-19 vaccination card?

- If you got the COVID-19 vaccine in Colorado, you can get your immunization record through the Colorado Immunization Information System (CIIS) [Public Portal](#). If you have difficulty finding your record, [please review this CDPHE guidance document](#).
- Alternatively, if you got the COVID-19 vaccine in Colorado, you can find a digital version of your COVID-19 immunization card through [myVaccine record on the myColorado mobile app](#).
- If you got your COVID-19 vaccination(s) outside of Colorado, please contact your vaccination provider or the immunization information system of the state in which you received your COVID-19 to request a copy of your records.

27. How can I get vaccinated for COVID-19?

- There are many easy and convenient ways to get a FREE COVID-19 vaccine:
 - Visit a JCPH COVID-19 vaccination clinic near you. Walk-ups are welcome. [Find a location near you](#).
 - Go to a local vaccine provider. [Visit CDPHE's website for a complete listing](#) of healthcare partners offering COVID-19 vaccines.
 - Get vaccinated at a retail pharmacy location like Walgreens, CVS, King Soopers, Walmart or Sam's Club. Check in with your nearest location to be sure they have supply and appointments available.
 - Go to a community vaccination site run by CDPHE. [See the CDPHE website for the most recent list of locations](#).
 - Talk to your healthcare provider about other options.

28. Are COVID-19 vaccines safe? How do we know?

- The FDA requires that vaccines undergo a rigorous scientific process, including three phases of clinical trials, before they authorize or approve the vaccine. The COVID-19 vaccines are subject to the same safety standards as other vaccine trials. To date, the independent Data and Safety Monitoring Board overseeing Phase Three trials of the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines has not identified or reported any serious safety concerns. All Phase Three studies have Data Safety and Monitoring Boards. The boards are made up of independent scientists hired by the company to look at the safety data and check at regular intervals whether the company should cancel or continue with the study. Additionally, two independent advisory committees will review a vaccine's safety data before it is made available to the public. These committees are the Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee (VRBPAC), which advises the FDA, and the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), which advises the CDC. [Learn more about](#)

[the vaccine safety and development process.](#)

29. Do COVID-19 vaccines protect against the more transmissible Delta variant?

- Yes. People who are fully vaccinated are protected from the Delta variant.
- Getting vaccinated also protects others around you. Current data suggests that vaccination reduces the spread of infection, leading to fewer opportunities for new variants to develop and spread.

30. If I have already had COVID-19, do I still need to be vaccinated?

- Yes. You should get a vaccine even if you previously had COVID-19.
- Scientists are still learning more about how long you might be immune after recovering from COVID-19. Early evidence suggests natural immunity from COVID-19 may not last very long in some people, and cases of reinfection have been reported.
- If you had COVID-19, [the CDC says you may wait a few months after your infection before getting the vaccine](#). It's unlikely that you will get COVID-19 again during this time. However, you may choose to get the vaccine earlier than that as long as you have recovered from your infection.
- If you received a COVID-19-specific antibody treatment (e.g. monoclonal antibodies or convalescent plasma) while you were sick with COVID-19, [you should wait at least 90 days](#) after receiving the antibody treatment before getting the vaccine.
- [Learn more about immunity in this FAQ on the CDPHE website.](#)

31. I have seen recommendations to get an additional dose or booster of vaccine. Is this required?

- No, not at this time. Under [Public Health Order 21-005](#), an individual is considered fully vaccinated two calendar weeks after they have received two doses of a mRNA vaccine (Moderna or Pfizer) or one dose of the Janssen (Johnson & Johnson) vaccine.

General Questions

32. Why is the Board of Health implementing Public Health Orders 21-004 and 21-005 now?

- As Local Government Workers, we must take necessary steps to protect each other and those we serve by ensuring low risk of spreading COVID-19. Unfortunately, Jefferson County remains a high risk area for COVID-19 transmission based on [CDC's metrics](#).
- The Delta variant — which accounts for virtually all COVID-19 cases in the state — is twice as contagious as previous variants and the greatest risk of transmission is among unvaccinated people who are much more likely to contract, and therefore transmit, the virus to others.
- Based on trends during the Fall and Winter months last year, we anticipate increased cases and hospitalizations again this year. Taking action now will help

reduce the impact of a “sixth wave.”

- Public Health Order 21-005 is aligned with new requirements announced for other businesses by the Federal government.

33. What data and evidence supports Public Health Orders 21-004 and 21-005?

- Jefferson County remains in [CDC's high transmission category](#).
 - From October 1-7, 2021, there have been 930 new cases of COVID-19 (159.5 per 100,000 residents) in Jefferson County.
 - From September 18-October 1, 2021, there have been 1.1 average hospitalizations per 100,000 residents.
 - From September 3-October 3, 2021, an average of 1.1 Jefferson County residents died of COVID-19 every day.
 - As of October 11, 2021, 75 Jefferson County residents have died of COVID-19 in the past 100 days.
- The Delta variant — which accounts for virtually all COVID-19 cases in the state — is twice as contagious as previous variants and the greatest risk of transmission is among unvaccinated people who are much more likely to contract, and therefore transmit, the virus to others.
 - National, state and local data is clear: the vast majority of COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations and deaths are among people who are not fully vaccinated. According to the [Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment \(CDPHE\)](#), as of October 11, people who are vaccinated are 3.4 times less likely to get COVID-19, 4.3 times less likely to be hospitalized due to COVID-19 and 3.6 times less likely to die from COVID-19.
- [View the “Vaccination Data” section of the JCPH Case Summary dashboard](#) for the most up-to-date data.

34. What authority does the Board of Health have to issue Public Health Orders?

Pursuant to Colorado Revised Statutes (C.R.S.) 25-1-506 and 508, JCPH has public health jurisdiction over Jefferson County, including all cities and towns therein. In furtherance of its jurisdiction, JCPH has the power and duty to investigate and control the causes of epidemic or communicable diseases and conditions affecting the public health within Jefferson County, as well as the power and duty to close schools and public places and to prohibit gatherings of people when necessary to protect public health, and to establish, maintain, and enforce isolation and quarantine, and in pursuance thereof, to exercise physical control over property and over persons within Jefferson County as JCPH may find necessary for the protection of public health.

35. What happens if I don't comply with Public Health Orders 21-004 and 21-005?

Any facility that is in violation of this Order may be subject to a civil action, including but not limited to injunctive relief pursuant to C.R.S. § 25-1-514 and reimbursement of expenses pursuant to C.R.S. §25-1-516(3).

36. I'm concerned about the increasing number of COVID-19 cases. What should I do?

- Widespread vaccination is how we are going to end this pandemic and keep it behind us. Getting a vaccine will help protect yourself and your loved ones. Once you've been vaccinated, you have the upper hand against the virus, because it means that even if you are exposed, you have a very low risk of getting COVID-19. In the rare instance that you do still contract the virus, it likely won't be as severe.
- Other layered viral mitigation strategies, including wearing a mask when visiting indoor public settings and getting tested if you have symptoms or if you have been exposed to an individual who tested positive, can help prevent the spread of COVID-19.
- [Find more tips for preventing the spread of COVID-19 on JCPH's website.](#)