

November 18, 2021

To: Governor Jared Polis

CC: Jill Ryan, Executive Director, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Commissioner Tracy Kraft-Tharp, Commissioner District 1, Commissioner Andy Kerr, District 2, Commissioner Lesley Dahlkemper, District 3, Dr. Dawn Comstock, Executive Director, Jefferson County Public Health

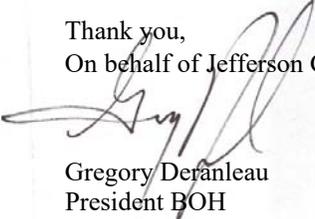
The Jefferson County Board of Health received extremely disturbing data last evening from the Executive Director of Jefferson County Public Health (JCPH). The most recent data for Jefferson County indicate that there have been 16 fatalities among Jefferson County residents due to Covid-19 in the last week (November 8 through 15), and on average, over 1 death per day among our residents since July 9, when the current surge began. Additionally, and as you are aware, the continuing rapid proliferation of COVID-19 and delta variant cases within our state and county remains a grave concern.

Despite extraordinary work and communication from local public health organizations, impressive vaccination uptake, and provision of boosters to any adult in CO, Colorado's hospital capacity has been compromised to the point of medical care rationing. Data have consistently been provided by the Colorado State Epidemiologist outlining the growing risk to stymied economic recovery, in-person school attendance, harm to our most vulnerable citizens, continued demand on crippled health care systems and increased deaths. These factors now lead the Board Members for JCPH to respectfully seek your urgent leadership to drive the following mitigation steps:

1. Following the guidelines of the CDC, implement a temporary executive order requiring face coverings in all indoor public spaces for all individuals two years and older regardless of vaccination status, in the spirit of the previously enacted statewide mask order. Masking has been shown to be an effective measure to curb the spread of COVID-19/Delta Variant. This is extremely important given the upcoming holiday seasons where both local and out of state families and friends will gather for indoor activities. We additionally request the flexibility for local jurisdictions to implement mitigation procedures in certain settings, such as a vaccination passport program, in lieu of universal masking requirements.
2. Engage in and prioritize a stakeholder process to discuss and implement innovative ways to increase our statewide vaccination rate.

Governor Polis, we all need to do more to address the trends we are seeing currently and that will most likely surge in the coming weeks with holiday travel and movement indoors. Trends are going in the wrong direction and we implore you to take additional mitigation steps immediately before anyone else loses their life unnecessarily. We continue to take steps within our county to help slow the spread of the virus and we request your assistance to encourage our fellow counties to do the same. We are all in this together.

Thank you,
On behalf of Jefferson County Board of Health members



Gregory Deranleau
President BOH

Lane Draeger
Vice President BOH

Kimberley Krapek
Secretary BOH

Cheri Jahn

Harriet Hall