

Stay-at-Home Order Extension Frequently Asked Questions April 27, 2020

1. Why did JCPH and Metro Denver Area public health agencies extend the statewide Stay-at-Home order through May 8?

Extending the Stay-at-Home order in Jefferson County (and in the Denver Metro Area) for a brief period is necessary to protect the health of our residents.

From early in this pandemic response, local, state and federal authorities, including the White House Coronavirus Task Force, have emphasized at least four indicators that would be used before Stay-at-Home orders could be relaxed or lifted. These are:

1. The availability of adequate testing for all symptomatic individuals
2. A system in place to ensure the isolation of all positive cases and to trace all close contacts of each case to move them into self-quarantine
3. The ability of the healthcare system to adequately treat all severe cases
4. One incubation period (14 days) of decreasing new cases of COVID-19

When Governor Polis announced his “Safer-at-Home” plan, local public health agencies were directed to review their current situation before moving off the “Stay-at-Home” order. The Metro Denver Area health departments concluded that we have met only the third of the four indicators for moving forward.

Based on this information, we determined that holding the Stay-at-Home order in place for one more incubation period (14 days) would give us the opportunity of seeing positive movement on the first two indicators, and hopefully let us begin to see a decreasing caseload of new patients.

Extending to May 8 will also allow us to:

- Secure additional personal protective equipment (PPE).
- Increase and enhance communication with businesses regarding guidelines and policies for reopening while maintaining best public health practices.
- Provide businesses the opportunity to prepare for reopening with guidance from JCPH and CDPHE.
- Communicate with the public about the most effective ways to protect themselves in the face of a rapidly changing pandemic.
- Ensure our strategies are equitable and reflect the needs of our community as a whole.

2. What does the Stay-at-Home order extension mean for me personally or my business?

JCPH’s order simply extended the [statewide Stay-At-Home order](#). There is only one change/modification to the state’s order, which is to permit non-Critical Businesses to conduct curbside delivery services.

- For individuals, things remain the same as they have been since the state Stay-at-Home order is simply extended for two weeks.
- For non-Critical businesses, retail can begin providing curbside delivery/pick-up services [following this guidance](#). (Customers are not allowed to go inside physical business locations).
 - E.g., Pet grooming is now permitted if it can be done via curbside drop-off and pick-up.
 - E.g., Salons are allowed to sell products for curbside pickup, but cannot provide any other physical salon services.

Separately, due to the State of Colorado's new [Executive Order D 2020 045](#) issued on April 26, medical, dental or veterinary voluntary or elective surgeries and procedures can begin again, under certain conditions to minimize the risk of COVID-19 transmission to patients, healthcare workers, community members and others. [Read JCPH's statement here](#).

3. What data was used to inform this decision?

On a daily basis, JCPH — in partnership with Metro Denver Area public health directors, experts and leaders — reviews disease epidemiology data and models to assess the current and future impacts of COVID-19 on our communities. We review as much information as possible to inform our decision-making on all public health actions, and do not rely on one single model or data set. This includes but is not limited to local daily case counts/trends, daily death counts/trends, hospitalization and recovery data, outbreak data for facilities, race/ethnicity data, and models provided by the Colorado School of Public Health and CDPHE.

We always prioritize real-time local level information (as opposed to world or national data) and models that are based on local data.

4. Where can I find guidance for curbside delivery services?

JCPH worked with other local public health agencies in the Denver Metro Area to create guidance to support our local businesses in implementing curbside services. [That guidance is available here](#).

5. What will happen after the extension expires on May 8?

While we are very hopeful we will be able to ease Stay-at-Home requirements, we cannot guarantee the Stay-at-Home order will expire on May 8. The COVID-19 rates in the Denver Metro Area are much higher than many areas in our state, and local strategies are required. Metro Denver Area public health officials will be closely monitoring and discussing the data in real-time, against these four indicators:

1. The availability of adequate testing for all symptomatic individuals
2. A system in place to ensure the isolation of all positive cases and to trace all close contacts of each case to move them into self-quarantine
3. The ability of the healthcare system to adequately treat all severe cases
4. One incubation period (14 days) of decreasing new cases of COVID-19

6. Are elective medical procedures or dental procedures allowed during the current Stay-at-Home extension?

On April 26, 2020, the State of Colorado issued [Executive Order D 2020 045](#), permitting the limited recommencement of voluntary or elective surgeries and procedures in Colorado. Based on this new information, JCPH will align with the Governor's Order on this topic.

Further, [Jefferson County Public Health's extended Stay-at-Home Order](#) issued April 24, 2020 does not adopt or extend [Executive Order D 2020 027](#), which prohibits elective medical procedures through April 26, 2020.

This means that medical, dental or veterinary voluntary or elective surgeries and procedures can begin again, under certain conditions to minimize the risk of COVID-19 transmission to patients, healthcare workers, community members and others. This includes adequate use of personal protective equipment (PPE).

For detailed safety and protection directives, please consult [Executive Order D 2020 045](#).

7. What is the difference between JCPH's "Stay-at-Home" order extension and the state's "Safer-at-Home" guidance?

JCPH's extended [Public Health Order 20-001](#) means that all Jefferson County residents must continue to stay at home per the [original state Stay-at-Home order](#). The only modification is that Jefferson County businesses previously designated as non-Critical can begin providing curbside services. Also, due to the State of Colorado's new [Executive Order D 2020 045](#) issued on April 26, medical, dental or veterinary voluntary or elective surgeries and procedures can begin again with strict precautions.

The state's ["Safer-at-Home" Order](#) outlines a new level in Colorado's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. According to the order, Coloradans who are not subject to more restrictive local-level orders should continue staying home as much as possible, and the order directs vulnerable populations, including seniors, to continue staying home, only leaving when absolutely necessary. Changes happening during "Safer-at-Home" will be phased in. Additional information about the Safer-at-Home plan is available from CDPHE [here](#). **PLEASE NOTE: The "Safer-at-Home" Order does NOT currently apply to Jefferson County.**

8. What is the current guidance around wearing non-medical face coverings?

Community members are advised to wear non-medical cloth face coverings if they must leave home. No child under the age of 2 should ever wear a mask or other face covering. [Here is guidance on how to safely wear a face covering.](#)

[Executive Order D 2020 039](#) orders workers at critical businesses to wear medical or non-medical face coverings that will cover your mouth and nose while at work, except where doing so would inhibit your health, and wear gloves (if gloves are provided by an employer) when in contact with customers or goods.