



COVID-19 FAQs

To keep our Clear Creek County COVID-19 case numbers from increasing, it remains critical that we come together as a community—residents, businesses, and visitors—and adhere to mask wearing and social distancing, especially during the summer tourist season so that we can all stay healthy and our economy can stay open.

We hope these answers to Frequently Asked Questions are helpful in keeping you informed. Find links to the State Public Health Orders, Clear Creek County Resolutions, and other information at: www.clearcreekcounty.us

Do I have to wear a face mask in Clear Creek County?

Yes. Beginning on July 3, cloth face coverings that completely cover the nose and mouth must be worn by all persons five years and older in all indoor and outdoor public spaces in Clear Creek County, including all towns and cities. On July 16, a State Face Mask Order was also enacted. [View all State Executive and Public Health orders here.](#)

To be most effective, the protective cloth face mask/covering should be a piece of cotton fabric that can securely and fully cover your nose, mouth and chin. Surgical-grade face masks and N-95 respirators are best utilized by those on the front-line—especially health care professionals and First Responders. For more details, visit the [Centers for Disease Control \(CDC\) website](https://www.cdc.gov).

Are there penalties for not wearing a mask?

The Clear Creek County Board of Health passed Public Health Order 20-05 requiring face masks to be worn in public for the protection of Clear Creek County residents. This was due to recent spikes in COVID-19 cases—especially in neighboring counties and states, the influx of tourists expected throughout the summer tourist season, and in support of our effort to stay healthy so we can stay open. [Read the full Resolution here.](#)

We are asking everyone to do this voluntarily, but failure to comply with this Order is subject to a fine of up to \$5,000 and up to 18 months in the County Jail. Penalties will be determined by a Judge depending on the severity of the violation.

What if my customers/clients aren't wearing masks?

All businesses in Clear Creek County, including all towns, cities and special districts, are required to post Public Health Order 20-05 signage at the entrance of their establishment. You can download the PDFs and JPGs at [State & County Public Health Orders](#). Spanish versions are also available for downloading.

Politely let your customers/clients know that wearing a mask in Clear Creek County public spaces is mandatory and that we all need to comply to keep our community healthy and our economy open. You can offer them a complimentary mask if they don't have one. You can show them the official County order. [Read the full Resolution here.](#) If they refuse, you can ask them to please leave. If they remain uncooperative, you should call your local law enforcement authority, phone numbers are on page 3 of this document and on Mask Order SIGN 2.



MASK ORDER SIGN 1



MASK ORDER SIGN 2

We also suggest posting CLEAR CREEK STAY THE COURSE signage at the entrance of your establishment. Download the flyer, logo and more at [Staying the Course](#).

As a business owner, you may find this [COVID-19 Business Communication Training](#) helpful. This 60-minute video addresses questions such as:

- What do you say to encourage people to wear masks and keep 6 feet apart?
- What if they don't comply?
- What do you say if someone who has been at your establishment becomes infected and you have to tell your employees and contact your customers?



Why do I have to wear a mask outside? Isn't it safer to be outside than inside?

Wearing a protective face covering when you're in public, whether indoors or outside, will help slow the spread of COVID-19 by limiting transmission of respiratory droplets containing the virus. The virus could be on surfaces you touch, and therefore on your hands; face coverings will help remind you to not touch your face. This protection is most effective in concert with frequent hand-washing and social distancing.

Public health evidence shows that many people have COVID-19 without knowing it or showing any symptoms. Wearing a face mask can help to minimize the spread of the virus by these *asymptomatic* individuals, indoors and out.

How can I prevent transmission of COVID-19?

You make a difference! Your individual actions have a direct impact on managing the spread of this virus. To reduce illness and death, and minimize reliance on First Responders and demand on limited public health resources, we all need to focus on preventing the spread of COVID-19.

The best ways to limit the spread of COVID-19 are to:

- wear a protective face covering when in public spaces
- practice 6-foot social distancing with non-household members when in public spaces
- frequently and thoroughly wash your hands

For more information, visit the [Centers for Disease Control \(CDC\) website](#).

How many COVID-19 cases have there been in Clear Creek County?

For an up-to-date case count, click on the blue VIEW THE NUMBERS information box on our [Clear Creek County COVID-19 Website](#).

What if I have or someone I know or work with has COVID-19 symptoms? How can I get a COVID-19 test?

If the symptoms are severe, call your health care provider immediately. If not severe, call the County's **COVID-19 Health Line at 303-670-7528** for information and/or to schedule a required testing appointment. Our Public Health Department is offering free COVID-19 testing for anyone who lives or works in Clear Creek County. Dates, times and locations for free, drive-through testing can be found on our [County Testing Flyer](#).

Can I have my wedding or other Special Event in Clear Creek County?

Yes, if you follow the proper requirements. Currently, Clear Creek County businesses and event planners are required to follow the guidelines found in State Public Health Order 20-28, Amendment 8, found here: [State Public Health & Executive Orders](#). This amended version expands group sizes for indoor and outdoor events and introduces the [Social Distancing Calculator](#) which generates a maximum allowable group size based on the square footage of your venue. If your event is outdoors, the maximum is 175 or the results of the Social Distancing Calculator, whichever is fewer. If your event is indoors, the maximum is 100 or the results of the Social Distancing Calculator, whichever is fewer.

PLEASE NOTE: All applicable local governmental requirements and/or permitting/licensing procedures still apply. It is your responsibility to check with the appropriate regulatory authority(ies) and follow their policies.

How many people are allowed on the hiking/biking trails in Clear Creek County? What about camping?

We are currently following the [State Guidelines](#) that allow for groups of up to 10 people to participate in Personal Recreation Activities. For current information regarding camping in the Arapaho/Roosevelt National Forest in Clear Creek County, check here for [USFS/Clear Creek Ranger District Info](#).

What is the status of Clear Creek County's requested variance from the State's Safer at Home Order?

Clear Creek County Variance 1, regarding the allowable number of participants for mine & mill tours and rafting, was submitted on May 28 and approved on June 10.

Clear Creek County Variance 2, requesting expanded group maximums for outdoor events and restaurants, was submitted on June 16. On June 18, the State issued orders increasing the maximum allowable number of participants for outdoor and indoor gatherings and directed event holders to use the [Social Distancing Calculator](#) to determine group sizes for specific events.

On June 30, Clear Creek County received approval of our Variance 2 request. Upon review, we determined that the June 18 State orders addressed the intent of our Variance 2 and that enacting our variance alongside the state orders would create undue confusion and complexity.

For these reasons, Clear Creek County has decided not to enact Variance 2 and continues to operate under State Public Health Order 20-28 and the State guidance regarding outdoor gatherings and restaurant maximums.

See the State's latest [public health order here](#), the Outdoor & Indoor event information starts on page 5. The [restaurant guidance is here](#).

Is Clear Creek County going to apply for the State's Protect Our Neighbors certification?

We continually assess our County's capability related to State guidance and phased opening criteria. Due to many factors, we will not be applying for this certification at this time. Find links to the State Public Health Orders, Clear Creek County Resolutions, and other helpful information on our [Clear Creek County COVID-19 Website](#).

Where can I find State Public Health Orders?

Since the State of Colorado's original COVID-19 Emergency Declaration on March 11, 2020, there have been numerous State Public Health Orders, Executive Orders, amendments and guidance documents. They can all be found here: [State Public Health & Executive Orders](#).

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON COVID-19

Clear Creek County Government:

<https://www.clearcreekcounty.us/>

Colorado Dept. of Public Health and Environment:

<https://covid19.colorado.gov/>

Centers for Disease Control: <https://www.cdc.gov/>

World Health Organization: <https://www.who.int/>

LOCAL NON-EMERGENCY LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE

Clear Creek County Sheriff's Office Dispatch: 303-679-2393

Idaho Springs Police: 303-567-4291

Georgetown Police: 303-569-2555, Extension 8

Empire Police: 303-569-2281

CLEAR CREEK COUNTY PUBLIC & ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

COVID-19 Health Line: 303-670-7528

Public Health: 303-670-7545

Environmental Health: 303-670-2420

Consumer Protection Specialist: 720-476-0283

COVID-19 Public Information Officer: 303-679-2424