State of Utah

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State Public Health Order
2020-21

Temporary Statewide COVID-19 Restrictions

WHEREAS, Novel Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) has been characterized by the World Health Organization as a worldwide pandemic caused by Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2), a virus that spreads easily from person to person and can cause serious illness or death;

WHEREAS, COVID-19 has and continues to spread and cause serious illness and death to Utah residents, threatening public health and wellness throughout the state;

WHEREAS, Utah Code §§ 26-1-30(3) requires and authorize the Utah Department of Health (the "Department") to promote and protect the health and wellness of the people within the state;

WHEREAS, Utah Code §§ 26-1-30-(5) and 26-6-3 require and authorize the Department to investigate and control the causes of epidemic, infectious, communicable and other disease to control the causes of epidemic, infectious, communicable, and other diseases affecting the public health;

WHEREAS, Utah Code §§ 26-1-30(6) and 26-6-3 require and authorize the Department to prevent and control communicable infectious, acute, chronic, or any other disease or health hazard that the Department considers to be dangerous, important, or likely to affect the public health;

WHEREAS, Utah Code § 26-1-10 authorizes the executive director of the Department to issue public health orders to enforce state laws, including Utah Code §§ 26-1-30 and 26-6-3;

WHEREAS, to prevent and control the causes of COVID-19 throughout the state, the Department has established minimum standards to address the unique circumstances in different locations in Utah;

WHEREAS, the Department previously released and updated the Phased Guidelines for the General Public and Businesses to Maximize Public Health and Economic Reactivation ("Phased Guidelines"), providing a color-coded health guidance system, to guide economic engagement while still protecting public health;

WHEREAS, the number of COVID-19 cases in Utah has sharply increased;

WHEREAS, Utah is experiencing a significant increase in the use of medical resources;

WHEREAS, new minimum standards are needed to prevent and control the rapidly changing consequences of COVID-19 throughout the state;

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has called on Americans to wear face coverings, with the CDC director stating that "[c]loth face coverings are one of the most powerful weapons we have to slow and stop the spread of the virus—particularly when used universally within a community setting," and that "[a]ll Americans have a responsibility to protect themselves, their families, and their communities";

WHEREAS, analysis by Brigham Young University researchers reviewing more than 115 studies on the effectiveness of masks in controlling COVID-19 found that "[t]here is clear evidence that face coverings reduce the spray of droplets produced during speaking, coughing, and sneezing" and that "masks could be one of the most powerful and cost-effective tools to stop COVID-19 and accelerate the economic recovery";

WHEREAS, published scientific research has shown that the probability of transmission during exposure between a person infected with COVID-19 to an uninfected person is 17.4% if face coverings are not worn, and 3.1% if face coverings are worn.

Based on the foregoing, in accordance with the authority vested in me as the Interim Executive Director of the Utah Department of Health by Utah Code §§ 26-1-10, 26-1-30, and 26-6-3, and being fully advised and finding the factual basis and legal requirements have been established;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Richard Saunders, Interim Executive Director of the Utah Department of Health, hereby order the following:

1. **Definitions.** As used in this Order:
    a. "COVID-19" means Novel Coronavirus Disease 2019 caused by Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2, also known as SARS-CoV-2.
    b. "Department" means the Department of Health created in Utah Code § 26-1-8.
    c. "Event host" means a person that owns, operates, provides facilities for, or has formal oversight over any of the following where a social gathering occurs: an amusement or water park, arena, aquarium, aviary, botanical garden, ceremony, cinema, comedy club, commercial event venue, commercial party venue, concert or concert hall, conference, convention or convention center, dance or dance hall, driver's education training, fair or fairground, museum, organized athletic or sporting event, recital, stadium, theater, or zoo.
    d. "Extracurricular activity" means an activity, a course, or a program that is:
        i. not directly related to delivering instruction;
        ii. not a curricular activity or co-curricular activity as those terms are defined in Utah Code § 53G-7-501; and
        iii. provided, sponsored, or supported by a school or a public or private institution of higher education, including a degree-granting institution and a technical college.
    e. "Face mask" means a mask that completely covers the nose and mouth, is made of synthetic or natural fabrics, and fits snugly against the nose and sides of the face and under the chin. "Face mask" does not include a mask with an exhalation valve, vent, or other hole or opening, or a mask that is crocheted or made of lace, mesh, or similar open weblike construction or material.
    f. "Face shield" means a shield that covers the entire face—including the eyes, nostrils, and mouth of the wearer—is made of clear plastic or similar nonpermeable transparent material, and can be used in conjunction with a face mask for enhanced protection.
    g. "Household" means an individual or a group of individuals who reside in the same residence.
    h. "Local Education Agency" or "LEA" means a school district or a charter school.
    i. "Person" means the same as that term is defined in Utah Code § 68-3-12.5(18).
    j. "School" means an LEA or private school that provides any kindergarten through grade-12 program or service, including a residential treatment center that provides any kindergarten through grade-12 program or service.
    k. "Social gathering" means an in-person gathering of individuals from separate households. "Social gathering" does not include a gathering for a primarily educational or religious purpose.

2. **Restrictions.** The following restrictions apply statewide:
    a. *Individuals.* An individual:
        i. shall wear a face mask while within six feet of any individual from a separate household;
        ii. may not eat or drink within six feet of an individual from a separate household while at a bar or restaurant; and
        iii. may not attend a social gathering unless:
            A. the social gathering has an event host or occurs at a business, including a bar or restaurant;
            B. the individual complies with all face mask and physical distancing requirements.
    b. *Event hosts.* An event host of a social gathering shall:
        i. require each individual attending the social gathering to wear a face mask, including in an area of ingress or egress;
        ii. require at least six feet of physical distance between individuals from separate households who attend the social gathering, including in an area of ingress or egress, unless the event host received a waiver pursuant to State Public Health Order 2020-19 or State Public Health Order 2020-20;
        iii. post conspicuous signage at the social gathering that:
            A. lists COVID-19 symptoms;
            B. asks individuals experiencing COVID-19 symptoms to stay home; and
            C. provides notice of face mask and physical distancing requirements; and
        iv. complete and implement the Event Management Template provided by the Department.
    c. *Businesses.*
        i. A business, including a bar or restaurant, whether or not acting as an event host, shall:
            A. require each employee and contractor to wear a face mask while at work;
            B. require each patron that enters the premises of the business to wear a face mask, including in an area of ingress or egress;
            C. require at least six feet of physical distance, including in an area of ingress or egress, between each:
                1. separate household group at a business other than a bar or restaurant; or
                2. separate party at a bar or restaurant; and

D. post conspicuous signage at each entrance to the business that:
    1. lists COVID-19 symptoms;
    2. asks employees and customers experiencing COVID-19 symptoms to stay home; and
    3. provides notice of face mask and physical distancing requirements.

ii. A bar shall close no later than 10:00 p.m. each day.

d. *Athletic and Extracurricular Social Gatherings.*

i. Except as provided in Subsection (2)(d)(ii), a person may not participate in or be an event host for a social gathering that is an organized athletic or sporting event or extracurricular activity.

ii. Subsection (2)(d)(i) does not apply to:

A. an intercollegiate or professional athletic event; or

B. a high school football practice or game that meets the following conditions:

1. each participant, including each coach, trainer, staff member, and athlete, wears a face mask, except as provided in Subsection (3)(viii);
2. the event host limits in-person attendance only to participating athletes and their coaches, trainers, staff members, and no more than two additional individuals per attending coach, trainer, athlete, or staff member.
3. each spectator wears a face mask and maintains at least six feet of physical distance from an individual from a different household; and
4. no coach, trainer, staff member, or athlete is permitted to participate in a game unless the coach, trainer, staff member, or athlete receives a negative test result from a diagnostic test approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration to determine current COVID-19 infection within 72 hours before the game.

e. *Institutions of Higher Education.* Beginning as soon as possible, but no later than January 1, 2021, a public or private institution of higher education, including a degree-granting institution or technical college, shall require each individual who is enrolled as a student of the institution of higher education and who lives in on-campus housing or attends at least one in-person class provided by the institution of higher education to obtain a diagnostic test approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration to determine current COVID-19 infection each week.

3. **Face mask exceptions.**
    a. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Order, an individual who is otherwise required by this Order to wear a face mask may remove the face mask in the following situations:
        i. while actively eating or drinking;
        ii. while as the sole occupant of a room, cubicle, or similar enclosure;
        iii. when communicating with an individual who is deaf or hard of hearing and communication cannot be achieved through other means and the speaker wears a face shield or uses alternative protection such as a plexiglass barrier;
        iv. while obtaining or providing a service that requires the temporary removal of the face mask, such as dental services or speech therapy services;
        v. while sleeping;
        vi. while exercising outdoors, or while exercising indoors and maintaining at least six feet of physical distance from any other individual from a separate household;
        vii. while swimming or on duty as a lifeguard;
        viii. while actively performing as an athlete at an organized athletic event authorized under Subsection (2)(f)(ii);
        ix. while giving a religious, political, media, educational, artistic, cultural, musical, or theatrical presentation or performance for an audience;
        x. when engaging in work where wearing a face mask would create a risk to the individual, as determined by government safety guidelines;
        xi. when necessary to confirm the individual's identity, including when entering a bank, credit union, or other financial institution; and
        xii. when federal or state law or regulations prohibit wearing a face mask.
    b. The following individuals are exempt from the face mask requirements in Section (2):
        i. a child who is younger than three years old;
        ii. an individual who is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the face mask without assistance; and
        iii. an individual with a medical condition, mental health condition, or intellectual or developmental disability, that prevents the individual from wearing a face mask; and
        iv. an individual who is incarcerated.
4. **Local education agencies.**
    a. An LEA is not subject to the provisions of Section (2)(b) and (2)(c).

b. An LEA shall comply with the requirements of the "Planning Requirements and Recommendations for K-12 School Reopening," created by the Utah State Board of Education.

5. **Religious services.** This Order does not apply to a religious service. Faith-based organizations are strongly encouraged to implement protocols to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.
6. **Effect on other laws.**
    a. This Order supersedes State Public Health Order 2020-20.
    b. To the extent that any provision of this Order conflicts with a provision of State Public Health Order 2020-11, the provisions of this Order shall control.
    c. Nothing in this Order may be construed to prohibit a local health department from issuing a health order that is more stringent than this Order.
7. **Severability.** If a provision of this Order or the application of a provision to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of this Order shall be given effect without the invalid provision or application. The provisions of this Order are severable.

This Order is effective on November 9, 2020, at 1:00 p.m. and shall remain in effect through November 23, 2020, unless otherwise modified, amended, rescinded, or superseded.

Made at 5:00 p.m. the 8th day of November, 2020.

Richard G. Saunders
Interim Executive Director
Utah Department of Health