

Public Health Order 2020-09 FAQ

How is this order different from the previous order?

This order is a modified extension of the previous order. Most guidelines are still in place, however there are changes outlined below:

- A face mask requirement is included within Columbia city limits to align with the City of Columbia mask ordinance that went into effect on July 10, 2020.
- Groups of patrons at restaurants and bars are limited to a maximum of 10 people.
 - All patrons must be seated at all times when not entering/exiting the business or visiting a restroom facility. A face mask is required anytime a patron is not seated.
- Additional information for businesses submitting Operational Plans is detailed in this order.

When does this order take effect?

This order is in effect beginning at 12:00 a.m. on Monday, Aug. 10, 2020.

When will this order expire?

This order will expire at 11:59 p.m. on Aug. 31, 2020, unless extended, rescinded or modified prior to such expiration.

What restrictions do bars and restaurants have?

Bars and restaurants can operate with no capacity limitation, given that they follow social distancing requirements. Additionally, each table is limited to a maximum of 10 people per table. All patrons are required to be seated at all times when not entering/exiting the business or visiting a restroom. A face mask must be worn any time patrons are not seated.

Standing bar, counter and buffet service will continue to be closed under this order.

What are the restrictions at entertainment venues?

All entertainment venues including nightclubs, movie theaters, bowling alleys, dance halls, child entertainment facilities, etc., are limited to 100 person occupancy. An Operational Plan must be submitted to PHHS.

Child entertainment facilities and arcades must limit to 50 children with the total capacity limited to 100 individuals and submit an Operational Plan to PHHS.

What is an Operational Plan?

An Operational Plan describes the nature of the activity and outlines how the entity will meet social distancing requirements, disinfect high touch areas, collect information for contact tracing

purposes, and otherwise take steps to reduce the spread of COVID-19. Operational Plans can be submitted to PHHS via email at buisnessguidance@como.gov.

Operational Plans must meet the goals of the order to limit the spread of COVID-19 and must be submitted 30 days before any special event or activity.

Approval of a plan does not guarantee that the plan will not be suspended, revoked or required to be modified by the applicant if deemed necessary.

Which businesses are closed?

No businesses are closed under this order.

What if a business is not doing what they should to keep employees and customers safe?

To report noncompliance with the public health order, call 573.874.CITY (2489) or email City@CoMo.gov.

How will this order be enforced?

Enforcement will be based on findings of routine inspections and following up on complaints. Failure to comply with this order is punishable by fine, imprisonment, or both.

Can I gather with family and friends outside of my home?

This order limits both public and private gatherings to 100 people. However, you should avoid socializing in groups that do not readily allow for appropriate social distancing. When visiting with anyone outside of your household, individuals should maximize social distance from others. Vulnerable individuals are encouraged to limit visitors and maintain social distancing to the greatest extent possible.

If I'm currently working from home, should I continue doing so?

Employees who are able to work from home should continue to work from home. Special considerations should be given to employees who fall in the high-risk category.

What can I do as the customer to stay safe when visiting a business?

The best way to keep yourself and others safe is to stay at home as much as possible. This will limit your potential exposure to others and the virus that causes COVID-19. Order and pay online or over the phone when possible. Utilize contact-free delivery or curbside pickup when possible. If you visit physical locations, the CDC currently recommends the use of a cloth mask when social distancing is not possible. Remember to wash your hands after touching surfaces, especially before touching your face.

I have a question that isn't covered by this FAQ. How can I get an answer?

We encourage everyone to review the Order in its entirety. If that does not resolve your question, please email Coronavirus@CoMo.gov for general questions. If you are a business with questions about operating requirements, please email BusinessGuidance@CoMo.gov.