

OFFICIAL RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

**Boulder County Board of Health (BOH) Special Meeting
Online/Telephonic Meeting
November 12, 2020**

BOH Members: President Gregg Thomas; Vice President Jorge DeSantiago; and Board Members Morgan McMillan; Landrey Fagan; and Brooke Harrison.

Staff: Public Health Director Jeff Zayach; Deputy Public Health Director Lexi Nolan; Director of Administration and Finance Megan Hatten; Communicable Disease and Emergency Management Division Manager Indira Gujral; Environmental Health Division Manager Joe Malinowski; Community Health Division Manager Nadine Bridges; Communicable Disease Program Manager Carol Helwig; Emergency Manager Planner Chris Campbell; Health Equity Coordinator Sheila Davis; Health Planning and Evaluation Manager Kelli Hintch; Marketing & Communications Manager Chana Goussetis; Deputy County Attorney Trina Ruhland; Senior Assistant County Attorney Kate Haywood; Medical Officer Chris Urbina; Administrative Assistant Rita Mangeyn; and Business Operations Manager Tammy Golden.

Meeting Called to Order.

President Thomas called the meeting to order at 8:01 a.m. and asked all participants to identify themselves for the record (see above). He declared that a quorum was present and that notice of the meeting was posted on the Board of Health website with call-in information to allow for public participation. Due to COVID-19, the need for social distancing, and the current public health order, President Thomas said the meeting was being conducted online and telephonically.

Update on COVID-19 and Presentation of Public Health Order 2020-10

Public Health Director Jeff Zayach said the current two-week COVID-19 cumulative incidence rate for Boulder County was 556.9. With incidence levels continuing to rapidly rise in the county, statewide, and nationally, staff requested approval of Public Health Order 2020-10 to help slow the spread of COVID-19 in the county. He and Assistant County Attorney Kate Haywood outlined the specifics of the proposed public health order, which: 1) limited indoor event capacity to 25 persons; 2) limited indoor dining to 1 household per table; 3) prohibited spectators at sporting events at the adult and high school levels; and 4) strongly encouraged all people in Boulder County to work from home to the greatest extent possible. Public Health Order 2020-10 would become effective at 9:00 a.m. on November 14, 2020, and expire at noon on December 14, 2020, unless extended or modified by Boulder County Public Health (BCPH).

Mr. Zayach said most areas of Colorado were at Level Red on the State's COVID-19 Dial, which is one level from reaching the stay-at-home level (i.e. Level Purple). He said there would ideally be a more comprehensive statewide approach since individual actions of separate counties hasn't been effective.

Current state restrictions allowed up to 50 people per room based on 25% of posted occupancy limit, but Public Health Order 2020-10 increased restrictions, as it limited events to 25 people. Indoor events wouldn't be able to utilize more than one room or designated activity/area to increase capacity beyond the 25-person limit. If separate events were being held in the same area of a facility, each room would need separate exits, entrances, and restrooms in order to prevent intermingling between the groups.

Public Health Order 2020-10 prohibited spectators at adult and high school-level sporting events but allowed them at youth sports to allow for parental oversight and ensure consistency with other counties. University of Colorado (CU) sporting events would be allowed but without spectators. Mr. Zayach said both local school districts and CU supported the new public health restrictions.

The order wouldn't change state public health orders regarding worship and faith communities, and limits for outdoor dining would remain at ten people per table from no more than two households with minimum spacing of six feet between tables.

BCPH works with the Chamber of Commerce and public information officers from CU and the local municipalities to communicate public health guidance to the community. The County's COVID-19 Business Team works with the schools and business community, including club sports teams. Assistant County Attorney Kate Haywood said a webinar on November 13 would give businesses an opportunity to ask questions before the new public health order went into effect on November 14.

Board Member McMillan expressed support and compassion for local businesses that were especially being hurt because individuals weren't following public health advice and wearing masks, practicing social distancing, and limiting the number and sizes of their gatherings to help curb virus transmission. Mr. Zayach agreed. He said that was an issue nationally, and businesses were suffering because people weren't taking personal responsibility to help reduce the spread of disease. Many people and businesses have been cooperating, but it would require everyone working together to flatten the curve.

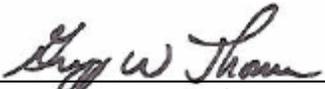
Board Member Harrison made a motion, which was seconded by Board Member Fagan, to approve Boulder County Public Health Order 2020-10 and authorize Boulder County Public Health Director Jeff Zayach to amend the public health order, if needed. With all Board Members voting in favor of the motion, President Thomas declared the motion carried.

Mr. Zayach shared a letter that BCPH intended to send to Governor Jared Polis, urging him to act in accordance with the timelines and mechanisms established by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) and State COVID-19 Dial. Mr. Zayach said a consistent and coordinated effort was needed across the entire Denver Metro Area and surrounding counties since separate actions by individual counties haven't been working. Mr. Zayach said he and other public health leaders in the Metro Denver Partnership for Health (MDPH) have asked Governor Polis to move to the "stay-at-home" level to help protect hospital staffing and provide a comprehensive approach and consistent messaging, which was needed because people were moving fluidly through the adjoining counties. COVID-19 incidence and hospitalization levels were at the highest levels since the pandemic began, and a concerted effort could help prevent a surge in hospitalizations. Mr. Zayach said if the State didn't adopt more restrictions, local public health authorities may need to do so on a local level.

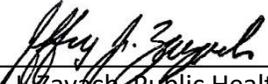
To acknowledge that continued restrictions were having an impact on the mental health of people, President Thomas asked that the letter include a plea to continue allowing outdoor dining and to encourage outdoor recreation because both were important for mental health.

ITEM 7. Adjournment.

There being nothing further to discuss, President Thomas declared the meeting adjourned at 8:53 a.m.



Gregg Thomas, President



Jeffrey J. Zayach, Public Health Director