



Housing Authority

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May 8, 2020

Dear neighbors,

We hope you and your loved ones continue to be safe and healthy during this time. We're reaching out with an update related to COVID-19 and the community response and recovery.

At 12:01 a.m. on May 9, 2020, Boulder County will transition from the local "Stay at Home" order to the state's "Safer at Home" order, including the requirement that all county residents wear a face covering when in public and physical distancing is not possible. Your Boulder County Housing Authority (BCHA) team is working closely with our colleagues in Boulder County Public Health on our COVID-19 policies under the "Safer at Home" order, including updates on staffing, face covering requirements, and adherence to physical distancing best practices. Please keep in mind:

Common Areas. Boulder County offices remain closed to the public until June 1, 2020. BCHA will continue our reduced staffing plan until at least that time. Because of this, interior common areas at BCHA facilities—including but not limited to community rooms, community patios, libraries, exercise facilities and other interior public spaces—will remain closed until at least June 1, 2020.

Face Coverings. Boulder County Public Health has issued an order requiring that all individuals, with some very limited exceptions, wear face coverings starting May 9, 2020. Face coverings must be worn anywhere outside of a person's residence in Boulder County, wherever 6 feet of physical distancing can't be maintained. This means that face coverings must be worn in hallways and other common areas on BCHA property. Adherence to the physical distancing requirements, along with wearing face coverings when it's difficult to maintain 6 feet of separation from others, will help limit the spread of COVID-19.

Transitioning to Safer at Home. Boulder County's extension of the Stay-at-Home order expires May 9, at which time the county will transition to the State's Safer-at-Home Order. The Safer-at-Home Order itself is very detailed; please refer to the State's helpful [FAQ](#) and other documents at <https://covid19.colorado.gov/safer-at-home>. Some key points of the Safer-at-Home order include:

- Everyone is strongly advised to stay in your place of residence (that is, your individual home or unit) and not leave except to carry out Essential Activities (outlined in the state's FAQ: <https://covid19.colorado.gov/safer-at-home-faq>)
- Vulnerable populations (those over age 65 and individuals with compromised health) should continue to follow Stay-at-Home practices.
- When going out, follow physical distancing requirements, wear a face covering, and follow public health best practices (maintain at least a 6-foot distance from other individuals at all times, wash hands with soap and water for 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer regularly, cover coughs and sneezes, and do not shake hands).
- Gatherings in both public and private spaces of more than 10 people are prohibited.
- Gatherings of 10 or fewer people outside a household should adhere to physical distancing requirements and recommendations.

- All residents in Boulder County must wear a face covering whenever they are outside their residence and unable to maintain physical distance of at least 6 feet from any non-household member. Exceptions include those whose health may be harmed by use of a face covering and children up to age 12.
- Individuals may engage in outdoor activity, such as exercising or smoking, as long as they follow physical distancing requirements and wear a face covering. Please note that BCHA's policies prohibiting smoking inside units remain in place.
- More businesses are open for in-person shopping as long as physical distancing requirements are met, but places of public accommodation--such as bars and restaurants--will remain closed for on-premises consumption.

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment stresses its support for the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines which state that people with symptoms of COVID-19 should self-isolate until at least three days have passed without a fever and respiratory symptoms have improved and at least seven days have passed since symptoms first appeared. Here is guidance on how to self-isolate: <https://covid19.colorado.gov/how-to-isolate>. Those who are getting ill and think they might have COVID-19 but have not had a positive test should also follow self-isolation guidelines.

For more information, please visit the state's website at <https://covid19.colorado.gov/> and the County's website at <https://www.bouldercounty.org/families/disease/covid-19/>

We also encourage you to explore the wide range of resources, benefits, and supports available in the community at this time and apply or reach out for any additional help you may need. Whether it's help with food, financial assistance, health coverage, child care, Unemployment benefits, or other supports, find this information at www.boco.org/COVID-19Resources.

We recognize that this is an unprecedented and challenging time for our community. Although our offices are closed for face-to-face meetings, we are committed to supporting you and our community. Please reach out to your property manager with any questions or concerns at any time.

All the best to you and yours,

Your Boulder County Housing Authority Team