



**COVID-19**  
**Public Health Guidelines for Essential Service Providers**  
**Effective: April 10, 2020**

The following guidelines are intended for essential service providers to protect themselves and the public from transmission of the virus causing COVID-19.

- The COVID-19 virus is spread mainly from person-to-person:
  - Between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet).
  - Through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes.
- These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs.
- Droplets can also remain on surfaces for hours to days. You can touch these surfaces then touch your mouth or nose creating an infection.
- Additionally, there is evolving evidence that infected individuals either with no symptoms or prior to having symptoms are able to actively transmit the virus.

The best way to protect yourself and others from the virus is to:

- Maintain a distance of 6 feet from other people.
- Wear a cloth face covering or disposable surgical style facemask when in public or at work
- Clean your hands often with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Clean and disinfect surfaces you touch frequently (i.e. mobile phone & steering wheel)
- Avoid touching your mouth, nose or eyes.
- Avoid any close contact with sick people.

In order to best implement these guidelines Gunnison County Public Health recommends essential retail establishments defined by the Public Health Order adhere to the following:

- 1. Limit customers within the establishment to 1 customer per 240 square feet of retail space**
- 2. Enforce 6-foot distancing through policies, procedures and/or floor markings in high traffic areas**
- 3. Require employees to wear cloth or disposable face coverings per [CDC Guidelines](#)**
- 4. Require employees interacting with customers to wash their hands or use hand sanitizer between each customer encounter**
- 5. Require all other employees to wash their hands or use hand sanitizer upon arrival, at least once per hour, after using the restroom, and prior to leaving.**
- 6. Clean and disinfect high touch surfaces at least twice per day or more often as needed.**

Additionally, policies should be in place to restrict employees from working if they exhibit any symptoms of COVID-19 to include: Fever greater than 100 F, Cough, Shortness of Breath or other flu-like symptoms. If a thermometer is available, it is recommended employees be pre-screened when reporting for work. Any employee who develops symptoms should be sent home immediately. For more information see the CDC information on [What to Do if You Are Sick](#)

These guidelines do not replace existing food safety or other requirements such as the use of hair nets and disposable gloves when handling food.

Cloth masks should be washed after daily use. Washing in a regular washing machine with hot water and detergent is recommended followed by drying on high heat. Hand washing with hot water and soap followed by air drying may also be effective. For more on masks visit this page by [National Jewish Health](#) in Denver

The routine use of gloves by all employees is not recommended as frequent and proper handwashing or hand sanitizer use is likely more effective than the extended and/or repeated use of gloves.

The use of separation equipment such as Plexiglas screens or service windows may be helpful. If used these should be cleaned and disinfected regularly. It is also reasonable to enact policies that limit the touching of objects by multiple people such as customer provided bags, headsets, etc. Policies limiting the use of cash are not necessary, however, handwashing or the use of hand sanitizer between cash or credit card transactions is recommended. Regular disinfection of credit card terminals is also recommended.

Employees with symptoms consistent with COVID-19 should seek testing by calling the Gunnison County COVID-19 Call Center at 970-641-7660. Any employee with symptoms should not return to work until they have been fever free (less than 100 F) for at least 72 hours without the use of medication. In addition, persons who test positive for COVID-19 must also isolate themselves for at least 10 days after onset of any symptoms. Individuals who tested negative for COVID-19 or who have not been tested should remain isolated and off work until they are fever free as noted above, their symptoms have sufficiently resolved.

This guidance is intended to provide a baseline for community protection. It is recognized that organizations may provide additional guidance and/or enact additional policies and procedures at their discretion.

The Gunnison County COVID-19 Incident Management Organization has additional resources available to local businesses to include:

- On site consultations
- Employee training in PPE use and disinfection procedures
- Assistance with development of appropriate policies and procedures
- Assistance in obtaining cloth masks and/or disinfectant products

Email [safety@gunnisoncounty.org](mailto:safety@gunnisoncounty.org) with any questions regarding this guidance or to request a consultation. General questions can also be directed to the Call Center at 970-641-7660.



Reynolds, Joni  
Director