

# *Proclamation Reopen Colorado*

- WHEREAS,** Starting in March, 2020, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (“CDPHE”) and Colorado Governor Jared Polis (“the Governor”) issued a series of public health and executive orders related to the COVID-19 Coronavirus pandemic; and
- WHEREAS,** Such orders include Public Health Orders (“PHO”) 20-20 through PHO 20-36, and their accompanying Executive Orders D 2020 123, through D 2020 199, which were entered under authority of the disaster emergency declaration and required measures such as sheltering in place, curtailing the operating hours and capacities of bars, restaurants, theaters, gymnasiums, casinos, entertainment venues, and retail businesses, required face coverings, or established burdensome requirements to allow businesses to operate at different levels within the state’s “dial” system; and
- WHEREAS,** Many of the prevention measures proposed in Spring 2020 were guided by an early understanding of the virus, a lack of viable treatment options, and concerns about hospital capacity; and
- WHEREAS,** El Paso County residents dutifully obliged State orders and answered the call to limit the spread of the disease, despite the deep impact lockdown measures have had on local families, businesses, schools, and churches; and
- WHEREAS,** Lockdown policies have had unintended consequences, including an increase in domestic violence, mental distress and illness, increased unemployment, job instability, and chronic illness; and
- WHEREAS,** The federal government has spent trillions of dollars mitigating the impact of the social and economic damage caused by pandemic lockdown policies; and
- WHEREAS,** Minorities, poorer populations, and women are likely to be disproportionately affected by prolonged lockdown measures; and
- WHEREAS,** Statistics show severity of disease is minimal for most healthy individuals under the age of 60 without high risk conditions; and
- WHEREAS,** A focused protection strategy for our vulnerable populations, the elderly and those with comorbidities, is an effective strategy promoted by top epidemiologists and medical professionals to balance the needs of society; and
- WHEREAS,** Public health and epidemiologists assert that lockdowns have never been used successfully to eradicate disease; at best they slow disease spread at great cost; and
- WHEREAS,** Hospitals were not overrun and are currently functioning at a normal level; and
- WHEREAS,** The Virus has been severely blunted by community cooperation, better treatments, the vaccine, improved hospital practices, and increased understanding of the virus; and
- WHEREAS,** A bi-partisan coalition of states are easing restrictions, including New York whose legislators recently finalized an agreement to limit and rescind emergency pandemic powers, and Alabama, who’s Governor recently published an official end for her face-mask mandate, or the Governors of Michigan and Louisiana or the Mayor of San Francisco who all recently relaxed certain restrictions; and
- WHEREAS,** Citizens are best equipped to make decisions for themselves about their individual risk level; and
- WHEREAS,** Citizens must have the ability to work to provide for their families; and

**WHEREAS,** The continuance of Executive Orders forcing lockdown measures is inappropriate. an overreach of government authority, and such authority must be returned to local governments immediately.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,** the Board of County Commissioners proclaim that fully reopening schools, businesses, and lifting burdensome restrictions is in the best interest of all Coloradans.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** we urge Governor Polis to join the growing bipartisan movement across the country to rapidly ease restrictions, end mandates, return decision-making authority to local governments, and allow Coloradoans to resume a more normal lifestyle.

**DONE THIS** 23<sup>rd</sup> day of March 2021 at Colorado Springs, Colorado.

**THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF EL PASO COUNTY, COLORADO**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Stan VanderWerf, Chair

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Cami Bremer, Vice Chair

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Longinos Gonzalez, Jr., Member

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Holly Williams, Member

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Carrie Geitner, Member

**ATTEST:**

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Chuck Broerman  
County Clerk and Recorder