



November 17, 2020

Dear Basalt Community Members,

Most of us have heard that COVID-19 incidence rates are climbing across Colorado, putting stress on our hospitals, public health system and health care workers. It's critical that we work together to ensure that we reduce the spread of COVID-19 to keep our community members safe and healthy and to ensure that our local businesses can remain open, especially as the holiday and winter seasons arrive.

On Monday, Eagle County moved to the Orange (High Risk) Level of COVID-19 precautions. Today, the state informed Pitkin County that it needs to move to the Orange Level by 5 o'clock on Thursday. The two-week incidence and positivity rates for both counties warranted a move into a more restrictive level, but the state's Department of Public Health and Environment is allowing both counties to implement restrictions more gradually. CDPHE can move the counties to more restrictive levels at any point if disease trends do not begin to improve.

In addition to these changes, Governor Polis announced today that the state will update its COVID levels, beginning on Friday, changing the restrictions under the Red (Severe Risk) Level and adding a Purple (Extreme Risk) Level.

Pitkin County may consider moving to the new Red Level based on today's announcement by the Governor. It is our understanding that the Pitkin County Board of Health will review the state's new COVID levels and decide which level is best for Pitkin by the end of the week. We will continue to communicate with our community members and businesses about the COVID risk levels from our counties.

With Eagle County's level currently at Orange (and Pitkin County likely moving to Orange by Thursday), residents, businesses and visitors in this portion of our Town should implement the following guidelines:

- **Personal gatherings** can have no more than 10 individuals from just two households;
- **Churches** must limit indoor services to 25% capacity or 50 individuals, and outdoor services must have 6 feet of social distancing;
- **Restaurants** have a 10 p.m. last call and need to limit indoor capacity to 25% or 50 individuals (including employees), and outdoor dining must have 6 feet of social distancing;
- **Bars** that do not serve food are closed;
- **Offices** can only be at 25% capacity and businesses are encouraged to allow remote working and meetings;
- **Gyms** can have 25% capacity, with a maximum of 25 indoors, and outdoor workouts can be done in groups of less than 10;
- **Athletic activities and group sports** can only be done outdoors in groups of less than 10;

- **Retail** needs to move to 25% capacity and dedicated shopping times for seniors and at-risk individuals is encouraged; and
- **Personal services** can remain open with 25% capacity or limited to 25 people.

A complete list of Orange Level guidelines and restrictions can be viewed at <https://covid19.colorado.gov/covid-19-dial>. Eagle County information is available in English and Spanish at [www.eaglecountycovid.org](http://www.eaglecountycovid.org).

As part of the Orange Level, Eagle County has moved to remote working, which may impact services at the county's El Jebel Community Center. Before going to the center for any county services, please call 970-328-9570.

Basalt Town Hall will remain closed to the public, but Town employees can still be reached for all standard services. Council meetings and other Town meetings will remain virtual through this period. If you have any questions about Town services, please contact us at 970-927-4701.

We understand that with the holidays coming that this is a difficult time for our community to become more restrictive. Much of the increase in COVID rates is being traced to social gatherings, so we are specifically asking our community members to be especially careful over the coming weeks.

If we work hard for the next weeks, and limit some of our gatherings over Thanksgiving, we may be able to turn these numbers around by early to mid-December. To do so, our Five Commitments to Containment are critical. So please,

- ✓ Maintain 6 feet of social distance.
- ✓ Wash your hands often.
- ✓ Cover your face in public.
- ✓ Stay home if you are feeling sick.
- ✓ Get tested immediately if you have symptoms.

If you are looking for a COVID testing site, please visit [www.rfvcovidtest.com](http://www.rfvcovidtest.com).

Thank you again for your commitment, patience and support through this difficult time. I am certain that by working together we can keep our community healthy and our businesses open—and soon return to our family and social gatherings.

Sincerely,

*Ryan Mahoney*

Ryan Mahoney  
Town Manager