



Dear Basalt community members,

Our community is entering a new phase in our response to the COVID-19 pandemic, with the phased reopening of some businesses and services in Eagle County and the anticipated reopening of Pitkin County in mid-May. There are several resources available to answer questions about the different public health orders and what it means for residents and businesses. Here are some helpful links to answer many of these questions:

- Town of Basalt COVID-19 Public Health Order Matrix is available on the Town's web site by [clicking here](#). This matrix tracks the different components of the Eagle County, Pitkin County and state of Colorado orders.
- Eagle County's COVID-19 Business Reopening Questions and Answers: Phase 1 Guidance document is available in both English and Spanish by [clicking here](#). Eagle County will launch a "chat bot" online Q&A tool that will provide 24/7 answers about the public health order. The chat bot will be available at [www.eaglecounty.us/covid-19/](http://www.eaglecounty.us/covid-19/).
- Eagle County also maintains a COVID-19 Business Toolkit that includes its Transition Trail Map and other resources. The toolkit can be accessed by [clicking here](#).
- Pitkin County's public health order runs through May 9, and the county is preparing guidance and reopening plans similar to Eagle County. Updates on Pitkin County's orders and guidance is available at [pitkincounty.com/1297/COVID-19](http://pitkincounty.com/1297/COVID-19). If you are in the construction industry, Pitkin County has specific guidance available by [clicking here](#).

#### **Basalt Requiring Facemasks in Public:**

Basalt Town Council held a special meeting today to approve a Town-only public health requirement to wear facemask in public places. Specifically, the Town's resolution requires facemask to be worn:

- When entering and while inside of a place of business open to the public, and
- In public indoor or outdoor places where persons are unable to maintain safe social distancing (e.g. six or more feet separation) from others not of their own household, except for momentary circumstances to accept payment, deliver goods, walk or ride past, or perform otherwise necessary tasks.

Exceptions to the order include:

- Children under 2 years old;
- Persons for whom a face covering would cause impairment due to an existing health condition; and
- Persons working in a professional office who do not have any face-to-face interactions with the public.

The facemask requirement went into effect immediately upon adoption by Town Council—and will remain in effect until May 26<sup>th</sup>, at which time the Town Council will review the requirement and either allow the requirement to sunset or extend it for a specified duration.. Failure to comply with the facemask order could lead to the penalties (contained in Section 1-82 of the Basalt Municipal Code) of up to \$2,650 in fines and imprisonment. In the event of a citation, the fine for the first offense shall not exceed \$50 and the fine for the second offense shall not exceed \$200.

**Town of Basalt Approves Community Grants:**

Town Council on Tuesday approved its initial grants to help support critical community organizations. The grants include \$50,000 for the HOPE Center to support of our community's mental health. This grant will provide counseling for adults, families and children in our community who are experiencing stress and anxiety due to job loss and other triggers that are resulting from COVID-19. The funds for this grant come from the Town's tobacco tax, which directed money to counseling and mental health services.

The Food Bank of the Rockies will receive a \$10,000 grant to help support the weekly food drive at the Basalt Middle School. This contribution will cover the cost of 40,000 meals for approximately 350 families attending the weekly food drive. An additional \$10,000 will be sent to the COVID-19 Regional Response Fund established through the Aspen Community Foundation. This donation will support access to healthcare and essential human needs such as food access, rent and utilities assistance, and emergency services for individuals and families in the Basalt area.

**New Mayor and Council on board:**

This past Tuesday, Mayor Bill Kane and new councilors Glenn Drummond, Elyse Hottel and David Knight joined Gary Tennenbaum, Bill Infante and Ryan Slack on Town Council. Before officially joining Council, our new members recorded interviews about themselves and their goals for helping lead our community. Please take a moment to watch the interview videos by [clicking here](#).

A final thought: As we start to move into the next phase of our COVID response, please wear a facemask while in public and please continue to practice strong social distancing measures by washing our hands often, staying home if we feel sick and seeking testing if we have an COVID-19 symptoms. Taking these steps will help ensure that we can continue to reopen our community—while staying safe and healthy.

Sincerely,

*Ryan Mahoney*

Ryan Mahoney  
Town Manager