

**SAN JUAN BASIN PUBLIC HEALTH**  
**HEALTH DISTRICT FOR ARCHULETA AND LA PLATA COUNTIES**  
**PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY: COVID-19 TRANSMISSION CONTROL**

**MAY 14, 2021**

Severe and highly transmissible variants of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) remain prevalent in Archuleta and La Plata Counties, Colorado. San Juan Basin Public Health (SJBPH) continues to urge all residents to take measures to protect themselves from this novel virus. **SJBPH advises all residents and visitors that the risk of contracting COVID-19 when participating in indoor activities with mixed households who are unvaccinated or have mixed or unknown vaccination status against COVID-19 remains high.**

As of May 13, 2021, the fourteen-day case incidence rate of COVID-19 in La Plata County was 215.0 cases per 100,000 residents, which is identified as “High” by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the fourteen-day case incidence rate of COVID-19 in Archuleta County was 364.2 cases per 100,000 residents, which is identified as “Very High” by the CDC. According to the Colorado School of Public Health, 1 out of every 93 Coloradans were infectious with COVID-19 as of May 3, the most recent estimate available. Despite the increase in our community’s vaccination rate, not enough people are fully vaccinated to control the pandemic through vaccination alone, and additional measures are still needed to keep people safe.

The best protection against COVID-19 is to overlap multiple strategies to reduce exposure. These strategies include vaccination, wearing a face covering, physical distancing, holding social gatherings and conducting business outdoors instead of indoors, maximizing indoor ventilation, symptom screening, and hand hygiene.

SJBPH advises that safe and highly effective vaccines against COVID-19 are now widely available in Archuleta and La Plata Counties for those 12 years of age and older. SJBPH urges eligible unvaccinated individuals to get vaccinated as soon as possible and urges partially vaccinated people to complete their vaccination series to maximize their level of protection.

SJBPH urges all individuals in Archuleta and La Plata Counties to wear a face covering while in a public indoor space, unless the individual is ten years of age or younger, or cannot medically tolerate a face covering, except in the situations below:

- If all individuals in the public indoor space are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 (meaning two weeks have passed after completing their vaccination series).
- Individuals who are hearing impaired or otherwise disabled or who are communicating with someone who is hearing impaired or otherwise disabled and where the ability to see the mouth is essential to communication;
- Individuals who are seated at a food service establishment;
- Individuals who are exercising alone or with others from the individual’s household and a face covering would interfere with the activity;
- Individuals who are receiving a personal service where the temporary removal of the face covering is necessary to perform the service;
- Individuals who enter a business or receive services and are asked to temporarily remove a face covering for identification purposes;
- Individuals who are actively engaged in a public safety role such as law enforcement, firefighters, or emergency medical personnel;

- Individuals who are officiating at a religious service; or
- Individuals who are giving a speech for broadcast or an audience.

SJBPH advises that, in order to protect workers, customers, and the community, owners, operators, or managers of a public indoor space should deny service or entry to individuals unless the individual is wearing a face covering as recommended above.

SJBPH further advises that all owners, operators or managers of public indoor spaces maintain physical distancing requirements (where all persons can maintain at least a six-foot distance from other individuals who are not a member of their household or party) within their Space to the extent possible. Owners, operators and managers of Public Indoor Spaces should limit capacity such that six feet of distance is maintained between households or parties, excluding staff.

In addition, SJBPH recommends that employers and business and event operators implement the following transmission control measures in public indoor spaces:

- Monitoring symptoms in employees at the worksite or through employee self-assessment at home prior to coming to the worksite. If an employee reports any symptoms of COVID-19 or tests positive for COVID-19, take all of the following steps:
  - Send employee home immediately,
  - Exclude employee until they are no longer contagious per public health guidance.
  - If two or more employees have symptoms of COVID-19, consult outbreak guidance from CDPHE available at [this link](#), contact SJBPH, and cooperate with outbreak investigators.
- Provide work accommodations for individuals at risk of severe illness from COVID-19, such as telecommuting, until such individuals are fully vaccinated against COVID-19.
- Encourage and enable remote work whenever possible.
- Schedule and stagger shifts and breaks, whenever possible, to reduce employee density at the worksite and in common areas.
- Improve ventilation of indoor spaces to the extent possible, according to CDC guidance available at [this link](#).
- Provide hand sanitizer and/or sinks with soap and hot water for customers and employees.
- Post signage for employees and customers on good hand hygiene and the requirement to wear Face Coverings. Example signage is available at [this link](#).

**SJBPH advises residents and visitors to only patronize indoor establishments and special events that adhere to the face covering and physical distancing recommendations in this Public Health Advisory;** these places pose a greater risk to your health than places that require face coverings and limit capacity as advised above.

Individuals utilizing enclosed public transportation vehicles should maintain six-foot physical distancing to the extent possible. Public transportation providers should maximize ventilation on enclosed vehicles to reduce accumulation of the virus.

To promote compliance with this Public Health Advisory, SJBPH has made signage available at [this link](#) that can be displayed at establishments and events that comply with face covering, physical distancing and ventilation recommendations. SJBPH advises owners, operators and managers of public indoor spaces and events to demonstrate their commitment to community safety by complying with this advisory and publicly displaying this signage.

**SJBPH will continue to evaluate the prevalence and risks of COVID-19 in Archuleta and La Plata Counties and adjust this Advisory and, if necessary, Public Health Orders accordingly.**

Issued at 3:30 P.M. on May 14, 2021

By:  \_\_\_\_\_

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