

**THIS IS A RAPIDLY EVOLVING AND FLUID SITUATION. INFORMATION AND ACTION ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE AT ANY TIME. BE PREPARED TO BE FLEXIBLE AND PATIENT.**

**PLEASE DISTRIBUTE THIS WIDELY**

**4/23/2020 #1 Crowley/Otero COVID-19 Update: Safer At Home Fact Sheet & Amended School Closure Order**

**Please take the time to read and understand this entire message.**

**Internet links: Before I send out each update, I check the links to make sure they are active. However, links do change from time to time, so the links I sent out today may not be the same tomorrow. You may have to search around a bit.**

Hello to all, please see the information below:

**Safer At Home Phase**

The last day of the Stay At Home Order is Sunday, 4/26/2020, and then Crowley and Otero Counties will be following the next level of protection, which is the Safer At Home phase (see the first attachment). Please read the attachment carefully, taking special note of the dates. Starting Monday, 4/27/2020 and continuing through Friday, 5/1/2020, from 8am-5pm, the Otero County Health Department (OCHD) will have two special phone lines dedicated to answering questions about the Safer At Home phase, and those numbers are 719-383-4728 or 719-383-3048. We expect a large volume of calls, so if necessary please leave a very brief message with your contact information, and your call will be returned when we are able. We are currently awaiting more guidance from the state, so please be patient and stay tuned! More information on the Safer At Home phase can be found here: <https://covid19.colorado.gov/blog/safer-at-home>

**Amended School Closure Order**

I have attached the latest, amended school closure order, and it is dated 4/22/2020.

**THANKS!**

A HUGE THANKS goes out to my staff and all of our public health partners that have risen up to face the multiple, complex, stressful, and very difficult challenges of this pandemic. I can say with complete honesty and confidence that I have seen truly amazing things from the people with which I have been privileged to work. Examples include, but are most certainly not limited to, our daily “battle plans”; National Incident Management System (NIMS) structure and functioning; Alternate Care Facility (ACS) planning; Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) receipt, staging, management, and resupply to providers; “deep dives” into public health orders and corresponding compliance work; epidemiological investigations and contact tracings; etc., etc. And, of course, a HUGE THANKS goes out to all of the residents of Crowley and Otero Counties that are doing their part (#DoingMyPartCO) to protect themselves and others. Please rest assured your compliance is GREATLY APPRECIATED, we can’t do this without you!

**What can you do RIGHT NOW?**

- ✓ Read, understand, and comply with public health orders! Public health orders can be found here: <https://covid19.colorado.gov/stay-home-except-essential-needs>
- ✓ Stay home if you are sick and, if needed, call your medical provider.

- ✓ Wear an appropriate mask if you must go out for an essential activity.
- ✓ If you are in a high risk group, take extra precautions.
- ✓ Cover your cough and/or sneeze.
- ✓ Keep your fingers and hands away from your face.
- ✓ Wash your hands a lot.
- ✓ Stay informed by trusted and reliable sources. Be careful about believing what you read on social media sites. Trusted sources/websites:
  - OCHD: <https://www.oterogov.com>
  - Centers for Disease Control: <https://www.cdc.gov>
  - CO State Health Department: <https://www.colorado.gov/cdphe>
- ✓ Do these things so you will be prepared, and not scared.
- ✓ And remember, "This too shall pass."

Until next time,

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