

For Immediate Release:
November 17, 2020

**Buena Vista County Board of Health
Position Statement: Mitigation Efforts During Increased Covid-19 cases**

The mission of Buena Vista County Public Health is “to protect and promote the health of all residents of Buena Vista County.” COVID -19 is a new virus that is highly contagious and primarily spreads from person to person and can result in serious illness, long-term negative health impacts or death. The number of COVID-19 positive cases in Buena Vista County and the state is steadily increasing at a rapid rate and is posing an immediate threat to the public health of Buena Vista County residents and visitors and can potentially overwhelm the healthcare system. There is currently no treatment that is curative for this virus, but there is evidence on the effectiveness of public health measures to reduce the spread.

The Buena Vista County Board of Health **STRONGLY RECOMMENDS** that all Buena Vista County residents and visitors wear a cloth face mask or face covering when in public and when individuals are within a six (6) foot distance from others for 15 minutes or longer. Exceptions to face covering/mask wearing are children less than 2 years of age or individuals with a legitimate medical condition that would preclude them from wearing a face covering. However, it is anticipated that the majority of people in our community can wear a face covering and **100% usage in public is expected** to get the maximum benefit from this measure.

Other recommendations for Buena Vista County residents and visitors include:

- Limit social gatherings, especially large gatherings of people.
- Limit the number of interactions you have with people from outside your immediate household on a daily basis
- Stay home when you are sick or exposed to COVID-19
- Wash your hands frequently. Use hand sanitizer.
- Clean commonly used surfaces often
- Get your flu shot. This is even more important this year during the pandemic.

These simple, yet fundamental principles of public health will decrease the transmission of the COVID-19 virus. During this pandemic the Buena Vista County Board of Health asks each citizen of Buena Vista County to immediately comply with these directives to slow the transmission of this virus. We know the upward trend in positive cases will continue without Buena Vista County residents adopting these mitigation strategies. We need everyone to do their part to protect yourself, those around you and the community.