

A COVID-19 Update from SCWA President Chuck Space (May 1, 2020)

As we have discussed on the recent Zoom meetings, on April 6 SCWA filed an official request with Governor Polis and also with Ms. Jill Ryan, Director of the Colorado Health Department to have Colorado recognize the declaration of the U.S. Homeland Security Department that car washing is an “essential business”. That request was filed again on April 13 and on April 20. We have also been in contact by phone and email with Kachina Weaver, Legislative Director for Governor Polis.

SCWA has contacted the offices of Senator Holbert; Senator Tate and Senator Priola to seek help in our efforts to have car washing declared “essential business” in Colorado. All three agree this is the correct designation. However, we have also been told with the current Governor this is a difficult task.

We contacted Governor Polis’ office yesterday regarding car washes status with the new “Safer at Home” order that goes into effect today. At this point the Governor’s office has confirmed that car washing is still not approved to open. We filed an official appeal of that confirmation yesterday and hope to hear back today. Our contact in the Governor’s office, Kachina Weaver did say if local officials permit car washing – that would be their decision. Although the state has changed the Stay at Home orders to Safer at Home, several counties have extended their Stay at Home Orders to May 8.

Here are the Colorado counties we were able to identify that have extended their stay-at-home orders beyond the April 30 expiration of the state’s directive:

Adams County: Extended to May 8, as part of the Tri County area does permit limited car washing operations; did allow non-critical businesses to begin offering curbside pickup April 27, according to the Tri-County Health Department.

Arapahoe County: Extended to May 8, as part of the Tri County area does permit limited car washing operations; did allow non-critical businesses to begin offering curbside pickup April 27, according to the Tri-County Health Department.

Boulder County: Extended to May 8, but did allow non-critical businesses to begin offering curbside pickup April 27, according to Boulder County Public Health.

City and County of Broomfield: Extended to May 8, but did allow retail businesses to offer curbside services beginning April 27, according to the Broomfield Board of Health. Broomfield also will allow for the “guided” reopening of businesses to in-person shopping on May 9.

City and County of Denver: Extended to May 8, but no additional non-essential businesses will be allowed to reopen, even for curbside pickup, according to a city spokeswoman.

Gilpin County: Extended to May 8 by the Gilpin County Board of Health. The closure of the county’s roads to non-residents also is extended, according to the Gilpin County Sheriff’s Office.

Jefferson County: Extended to May 8, but did allow non-critical businesses to begin offering curbside pickup April 27, according to Jefferson County Public Health.

Weld County, is one taking the opposite approach, saying they’ll loosen restrictions even beyond what the state has laid out by allowing any business to reopen beginning Monday

Douglas County, as part of the Tri County area has moved to the “Safer at Home” order and as part of the Tri County area does permit limited car wash operations.

We will continue to work to get this designation for car washers in Colorado for this time and future situations that may arise. We will keep you up to date and please call if you have any questions.

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