


Policy



Tri-County Health Department Board of Health	Short Title: Policy Regarding Issuance of County-wide Public Health Orders
Subject: Outlines procedures to be taken by the Executive Director when issuing county-wide public health orders	Effective Date: 11/06/2020 Revision Date(s):
Approved by:  Board of Health President	11/06/2020 Date

Purpose	<p>The Public Health Act of Colorado directs the Tri-County Health Department (TCHD) to inform, educate and empower individuals about health issues; to develop policies, plans and programs to support community health efforts; and to contribute research into insightful and innovative solutions to health problems.</p> <p>Public health agencies such as the TCHD are also empowered under the Public Health Act of Colorado to advise the Board of Health (BOH) on public policy issues necessary to protect public health and the environment.</p> <p>The Public Health Act of Colorado requires local Boards of Health to develop and promote the public policies necessary to secure the conditions necessary for a healthy community. In addition, the Executive Director, acting as the Public Health Director, is charged as part of his/her job description, to actively lead communications with the Board of Health, County Commissioners and their staff and all stakeholders.</p> <p>The Executive Director also has the responsibility to respond to public health emergencies, and initiate corrective actions and responses pursuant to Federal State and Local laws, statutes and regulations.</p> <p>Pursuant to C.R.S. §§ 25-1-506, 508, 509, and 516, the Executive Director has the authority to issue public health orders to control and slow the spread of infectious and communicable diseases.</p> <p>The members of the Board of Health, while appointed by the Commissioners of Adams, Arapahoe and Douglas Counties, are designated under the Public Health Act of Colorado to operate as the independent governing body for the TCHD and oversee the Executive Director of the TCHD who reports to the Board of Health.</p>
Policy	<p>In this context, the following policy statement has been developed to clarify the procedures to be followed by the Executive Director of the TCHD in issuing public health orders for an entire county or the entire jurisdiction.</p>

Procedure(s)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prior to the issuance of a county-wide public health order, the Executive Director or his/her designee shall engage with the Board of Health and county elected officials in the TCHD jurisdiction to provide information, data and need for such county-wide public health order. The Executive Director and/or designee will seek feedback for consideration before final county-wide public health order issuance. 2. If a county-wide public health order is issued, counties shall have the option to opt-out of the application and enforcement of the order via resolution within a specific timeframe, as specified in the order. Any county shall have the option to opt back in, and be included and subject to the application and enforcement of the order. Any county which does not find the opt-out option useful as a general measure can notify TCHD of its preference to forego the option of an opt-out pathway altogether. 3. If a county-wide public health order must be issued on an emergency basis, the Executive Director shall consult with the Board of Health and county elected officials as soon as feasible to provide a briefing.
Miscellaneous	None.
Definitions	<p>“County-wide public health order” means an order that would be an enforceable mandate on all residents in a given county or jurisdiction served by TCHD.</p> <p>“Opt-out” means to elect to be excluded and removed from the application and enforcement of a public health order.</p>
Forms, Supporting Documents, & References	None.
Policy Custodian	<p>President, Board of Health</p> <p>Review annually</p>