

November 1, 2022

## PUBLIC HEALTH SHELTERING ORDER

On March 12, 2020, the Mayor of the City and County of Denver declared a state of local disaster emergency pursuant to C.R.S. section 24-33.5-701, *et seq.*, due to the risk of spread of the COVID-19 virus. The City and County of Denver remains under this local disaster declaration.

On October 7, 2022, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment issued its Twenty-Second Amended Public Health Order 20-38, effective until November 6, 2022, unless extended, rescinded, superseded, or amended in writing, that deleted the recommendation which provided in part that “[g]overnmental and other entities are strongly urged to make shelter available to people experiencing homelessness whenever possible and to the maximum extent practicable, and are authorized to take all reasonable steps necessary to provide non-congregate sheltering along with necessary support services to members of the public in their jurisdiction as necessary to protect all members of the community.”

Denver has higher numbers of persons experiencing homelessness than in other communities in Colorado.

Current guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”) notes that persons experiencing homelessness may be “older adults or have underlying medical conditions [and] may also be at increased risk for severe illness than the general population” and urges communities to “[i]f possible, identify[] non-congregate settings where those at increased risk can stay may help protect them from COVID-19.”<sup>1</sup>

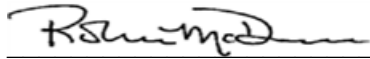
Hereby finding it is essential that the COVID-19 virus continue to be slowed in the City and County of Denver and because the risk of the spread continues to necessitate action to protect all members of the community, especially including our members most vulnerable to COVID-19, pursuant to this **PUBLIC HEALTH SHELTERING ORDER** (“Order”), Denver shall make shelter available to people experiencing homelessness whenever possible and to the maximum extent practicable based on guidance from the CDC, and shall take all reasonable steps necessary to provide congregate and non-congregate sheltering along with necessary support services to members of the public as necessary to protect all members of the community.

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<sup>1</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *Homelessness and COVID-19 FAQs*, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/homeless-shelters/faqs.html> (last visited October 28, 2022).

This Order shall be effective immediately and shall remain in effect until rescinded, superseded, or amended in writing by the Executive Director of the Department of Public Health & Environment. Any appeal of this Order must be brought within thirty (30) days pursuant to D.R.M.C. § 24-1.

Issued by:



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Robert M. McDonald  
Public Health Administrator, City & County of Denver  
Executive Director, Denver Department of Public Health & Environment

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