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# Metro Denver Partnership for Health

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November 12, 2021

To: Governor Jared Polis

CC: Jill Ryan, Executive Director, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

In the face of unprecedented challenges presented by the current COVID-19 surge to the capacity of hospital systems across Colorado – a surge that may require rationing of medical care in the near future – the Metro Denver Partnership for Health urgently requests that you issue a statewide public health order that requires the following:

- Vaccine passports (required proof of vaccination for all patrons and staff) in high-risk indoor settings such as bars, restaurants, gyms, sporting events, and other large-group settings.
- Face coverings for all Coloradans ages 2 and older in public indoor settings without vaccine passports.

Implementing these mitigation strategies is urgently needed, in conjunction with expansion of access to no-cost monoclonal antibody treatments and other actions that relieve the health system, to protect Colorado's already-compromised hospital capacity. These requirements must be statewide, given the statewide nature of Colorado's shared hospital ecosystem.

Mask mandates have been proven effective. The most recent modeling report from the Colorado School of Public Health identifies "immediate increases in transmission control measures such as mask wearing" as a strategy for reducing future hospital demand. Six states currently have statewide mask orders (Hawaii, Illinois, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, and Washington) and all but New Mexico have case rates lower than Colorado's.

We share your beliefs that vaccines are the best way to get through the pandemic and appreciate your efforts to promote their availability, especially among children now eligible to be vaccinated. However, their uptake has lagged in many areas across the state, and thus, we additionally ask that you take steps to require vaccination (without a testing option) among the following key sectors of our workforce to increase Colorado's vaccination rates:

- Teachers, staff, and volunteers in schools and licensed child care settings
- Staff and volunteers in shelters and other congregate living settings

- Health care providers not already subject to mandates, including individuals licensed by the Colorado Department of Regulatory Agencies Division of Professions and Occupations
- State, county, municipal employees, boards and commissions, city councils, and their contractors not already subject to mandates.

In addition to the threats to hospital capacity, the current surge more broadly threatens our schools' abilities to remain open and in-person, our region's continued economic recovery, and the health and safety of all Coloradans. We urgently request your leadership in responding to this crisis.

Thank you,



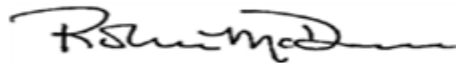
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