Pandemic-Related Transitions: P-3 Learning Contexts

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NATIONAL P3 CENTER

Introductions

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Goals for Today

- Review pandemic-related transitions
- Summarize what research tells us:
  - Support young students' most essential needs
  - Engage families
  - Prioritize teachers' and staff's well-being
- Strategies for districts and schools
- Hear from each other about what's working

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Context for Pandemic-Related Transitions

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Examples of Pandemic-Related Transitions

Individuals/Families:

- Quarantine due to COVID-19 symptoms or exposure
- At home due to avoid risks of getting sick
- Housing and/or home instabilities

Schools/Districts institute:

- Changed or extended holiday schedules
- Rolling school/program closures
- Hybrid schedules of in-person and remote learning

Communities experience:

- Public health requirements that affect schools, family employment, transportation options

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What This Means for Children

Who Decides?

- State has designated schools as "critical businesses."

- Local school districts, in consultation with local public health agencies, determine format of learning contexts.

COLORADO
Department of Public Health & Environment

PUBLIC HEALTH ORDER 20-36
COVID-19 DIAL
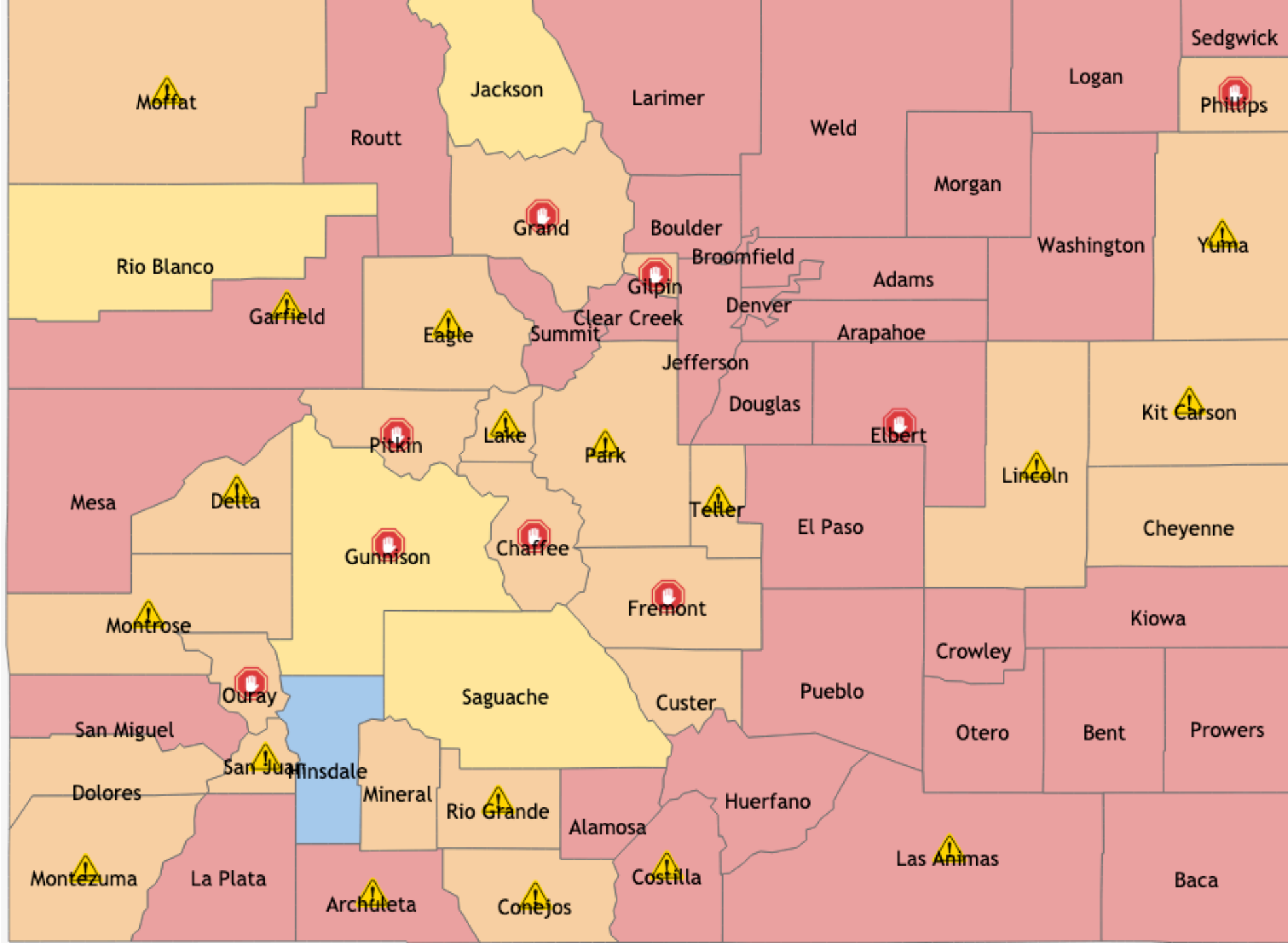**November 2, 2020**

PURPOSE OF THE ORDER

I issue this Public Health Order (PHO or Order) pursuant to the Governor's directive in **Executive Order D 2020 235** in response to the existence of thousands of confirmed and presumptive cases of Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) and related deaths across the State of Colorado. This Order implements levels of restrictions for individuals, businesses and activities to prevent the spread of COVID-19 further in Colorado.

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Who Decides?

Masked children as Gov. Jared Polis visits a second grade class in Aurora. (Cherry Creek School District handout)

Colorado governor pleads with parents to sign their kids up for school as state faces enrollment declines

Gov. Jared Polis said he fears some Colorado parents are trying to home school their kids without proper planning and curriculums

Some families have *some* control.

Importance of Footnotes

- "Remote testing conditions may be qualitatively different for K-2 students."

- "Approximately one in four students who tested within these schools in fall 2019 are no longer in our sample in fall 2020."

BROOKINGS

BROWN CENTER CHALKBOARD

How is COVID-19 affecting student learning?

Initial findings from fall 2020

Megan Kuhfeld, Jim Soland, Beth Tarasawa, Angela Johnson, Erik Ruzek, and Karyn Lewis · Thursday, December 3, 2020

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How can schools and districts best support young students' learning?

Back to the basics of child development

Strategies to support young students' fundamental needs

- Prioritize relationship building across all learning contexts
- Provide predictable routines for students (to the extent possible)
- Focus on meeting students' basic needs
- Ensure learning is active and experiential, reflecting the whole child
- Have developmentally informed conversations with students

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Double-down on engaging families

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Strategies to partner with families

- Recognize and honor the immense stress families are facing
- Communicate early and often, in a streamlined fashion
- Acknowledge and coordinate with their child care needs
- Support and simplify learning at home
- Find ways to stay socially connected and build community

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Focus on teacher and staff well-being

Strategies to support teachers and staff

- Prioritize self-care

- Provide professional learning and hands-on support

- Facilitate collaborative teamwork and shared leadership

- Streamline and simplify communications and planning

- Work with their child care needs

Closing

- There is no formula.

- Keep eyes on the horizon.

- Read the footnotes: invest in who's missing (students, families, teachers).

- Be like Frederick the Mouse:
  - Gather the good things.
  - Carry them into the future.

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Thank you!

Resource: *Pandemic-Related Transitions: P-3 Learning Contexts*

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Disclaimer

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For additional resources…

Colorado Department of Education

https://www.cde.state.co.us/early/p-3education

Colorado Office of Early Childhood, Department of Human Services

http://coloradoofficeofearlychildhood.force.com/oec