



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

District 1 – Cody Davis 970-244-1605

District 2 – Scott McInnis 970-244-1604

District 3 – Janet Rowland 970-244-1606

March 15, 2021

The Honorable Jared Polis
Office of the Governor
136 State Capitol Building
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Governor Polis,

Mesa County is looking forward to removing all COVID-19 restrictions in our county beginning mid-April, 2021. For the past year Mesa County has successfully managed the COVID-19 pandemic without placing a burden on our local health care system. In the past month, we have seen a drastic decline in COVID-19 infection and hospitalization rates. Our vaccination capacity has rapidly increased, and we are able to meet community demand for appointments. On Monday, March 15th, we will be moving to level 1B.4, and offering vaccine to the general public by mid-April.

Reopening the community is about choice. Businesses may choose whether they limit capacity or require face coverings. Individuals may choose whether they want to continue to wear face coverings, stay home, or frequent businesses without restrictions. Mesa County Public Health continues to encourage all residents to wear a face covering and social distance when possible, and also encourages 5-Star facilities to continue the practices they've adopted. We have already proven through the 5-Star program that businesses are not a significant source of infection. It is our belief that it is the decision of the community to choose their level of risk and determine how to best protect themselves and their loved ones.

All along, we have talked about flattening the curve based on health care resources available. Vaccination rates are a critical component to this, especially focusing on our residents 60 and over. By far, the largest proportion of our hospitalizations and deaths have been among those in this age group – accounting for 70% of hospitalizations 92% of deaths in Mesa County. Reducing risk with this group has a desirable impact on our hospitalizations, to the point that we should be able to eliminate current restrictions.

We are at a place where it makes sense to reopen. Mesa County residents are parents, employees, neighbors, and business owners. They are ready to resume their routines and build back our economy. Thank you for considering the needs of our community.

Sincerely,

Janet Rowland, Chair
Board of County Commissioners

Cody Davis
Commissioner

Scott McInnis
Commissioner