

COVID-19

Campus Eating and Dining Protocols

Background

Current data suggests that transmission of SARS-CoV-2 occurs from person-to-person through respiratory droplets during close contact (within about 6 feet). Although transmission of SARS-CoV-2 from surfaces has not been documented, evidence suggests that the virus can remain viable for hours to days on surfaces made from a variety of materials. Based on current information regarding transmission of SARS-CoV-2 and accepted infection control principles, the Boulder campus has developed and implemented various control strategies to help minimize the potential for virus transmission. Strategies include strict physical distancing requirements, cloth face coverings in public spaces, health screenings, diagnostic medical testing, and implementation of contact tracing procedures. The campus has also developed various protocols intended to minimize risk within campus facilities, including upgrades and management of HVAC systems, and increased cleaning and disinfection of high touch surfaces in public spaces. This document was created based on public health recommendations from multiple agencies (e.g., CDPHE, CDC, Boulder County Public Health etc.) and input from Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S), Facilities Management, Campus Dining Services and the Provost's Office.

Purpose

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) and Boulder County Public Health (BCPH) have specific guidelines and requirements related to food service, dining, and restaurants. The purpose of this document is to define the various types of spaces on campus which are or could be used for eating and dining and the requirements related to each. This document does not cover campus events as those situations will have specific requirements which must follow county and state requirements.

Definitions

Restaurant means an establishment provided with special space, sanitary kitchen and dining room equipment, and persons to prepare, cook, and serve meals, where, in consideration of payment, meals, drinks, tobaccos, and candies are furnished to guests. For purposes of this order, "Restaurant" also includes any restaurant facilities located within a hotel, lodging and entertainment facility, resort hotel, or resort complex. C.R.S. Section 44-3-103(21), (29), (44), (45), (47). Patrons go to restaurants for the primary purpose of dine-in service.

Gathering refers to a collective group of people who do not all share the same household. Per the CDC, the more people an individual interacts with at a gathering and the longer that interaction lasts, the higher the potential risk of becoming infected with COVID-19 and COVID-19 spreading.

Multi-Use Public Space refers to lobbies and other common areas that are not traditionally used for eating yet eating frequently occurs in such areas. Physical distancing and face covering requirements must be maintained in these spaces.

Designated Dining Area refers to a space designated for in-person dining where food is prepared and served and follows all BCPH and CDPHE guidelines. Designated Dining Areas must always follow the Boulder County Public Health Restaurant guidelines.

Campus Risk Mitigation Strategies

In accordance with public health recommendations and the campus COVID-19 Health and Safety Policy, all members of the university community must maintain 6-foot distancing when possible. To help ensure sufficient distancing, the campus has adopted an 8-foot hexagonal approach to calculate and determine density allotments. All members of the university community, including visitors to the campus, are required to wear a face covering in public indoor spaces and outdoors while on campus¹. All customers/diners on campus must wear face coverings while in any facility. Since an individual cannot eat and drink while wearing a covering, coverings should be worn during movement in the facility and can be removed when sitting and dining in Designated Dining Areas.

Campus Eating and Dining

Different areas on campus can be used for dining and food service. The list of areas below does not cover all spaces on campus and only focuses on those areas that have historically been used for dining or are recognized as having a high potential for eating and dining activities. Each section specifies the requirements and special considerations.

Outdoor Spaces

Students are encouraged to eat outdoors whenever feasible. When eating outside, the campus community must follow the [COVID-19 Health and Safety Policy](#) and maintain adequate physical distancing.

Dining Halls and University-Managed Dining Facilities

Areas within the various dining halls or other areas traditionally used for eating and dining are considered restaurants and must follow the CDPHE and BCPH guidelines related to restaurants and food service.

During the initial phase of the academic school year, all dining halls and university managed dining facilities will provide only grab-and-go food options. The campus will follow the [CDPHE Guidelines for Restaurants and Food Services](#) for pick-up only. If deemed appropriate based on the status of the COVID-19 cases in the community and recommendations from public health officials, the campus may re-introduce on-premise

¹ Supervisors and department chairs have authority to grant COVID-19 Health and Safety Policy exceptions to staff (including student staff), faculty and all other instructional personnel, and research faculty and all other research personnel where required to fulfill individual job expectations.

dining. If on-premise dining is re-introduced, the campus will follow [CDPHE Guidelines for Restaurants and Food Services](#) for on-premise dining and ensure maximum capacity limits are maintained and physical distancing measures can be met.

Cafés

Various buildings on campus contain cafés and coffee shops which are leased to privately owned businesses. These businesses are responsible for following the most recent CDPHE and BCPH guidelines related to restaurants and food service. The campus is responsible for implementing over-arching strategies to help minimize the risk of transmission in each building. Risk mitigation strategies include upgrades to HVAC systems, increased cleaning and disinfection, installation of personal hygiene stations, decreasing density allotments, etc. Each café is responsible for following public health guidelines to minimize risk of transmission related to the food service industry. For example, access control and queuing to ensure physical distancing, cleaning and disinfection, methods to discourage customers from congregating, etc.

Prior to operation, each individual business must submit a COVID-19 Operating Plan for approval by Real Estate Services (RES). The Operating Plan must outline the company's approach to minimize the risk of virus transmission and ensure compliance with current public health guidelines and campus requirements.

Cafés on campus which provide customers with a dedicated area to eat, are responsible for maintaining the space as a Designated Dining Areas and must follow all public health guidance related to cleaning and disinfection. Designated Dining Areas must follow the physical distancing guidelines and adhere to the campus assigned density allotment. Designated Dining Areas are limited to 50% of the posted occupancy code limit and a maximum of 50 patrons.

Cafés that do not provide a designated space for customers to eat but have tables and chairs in close proximity to the café which may be used for dining (e.g., Engineering Center lobby), are not the café's responsibility to manage. The requirements and considerations for these types of spaces are outlined below under Multi-Use Public Spaces.

Multi-Use Spaces

The majority of spaces on campus are not designed or intended for food service and dining. However, many areas on campus are frequently used by the campus community for food consumption. These multi-use types of public spaces include lobbies, waiting rooms, tents, and other common areas where people frequently congregate. These types of areas are not considered Designated Dining Areas. These spaces have allotted densities based on the 8-foot hexagonal model being applied on campus and furniture has been removed or rearranged to help ensure physical distancing requirements can be met. Additionally, the campus has installed signage and created traffic flow patterns to reduce the potential for groups of people congregating together. These types of spaces are cleaned daily with enhanced disinfection of high touch surfaces.

Per the [University of Colorado COVID-19 Health and Safety Policy](#) all members of the campus community must wear a face covering while in these spaces. Hand sanitization stations will be installed at building entrances and in higher-traffic areas. Additional sanitization supplies will be installed in tents and designated study spaces for students to use before and after use. Members of the campus community who use these spaces are expected to sanitize their seating area before and after use. To reinforce these procedures and the need for proper personal hygiene and sanitization, signage will be installed in these high traffic areas. The following sections outline different types of multi-use public spaces and the requirements and restriction of each.

Common Areas

Common areas (e.g., classrooms, lobbies, hallways, elevators, etc.) are not Designated Dining Areas and campus mask use and physical distancing requirements are required at all times. Eating and drinking are not permitted in common areas and signage will be installed to remind the campus community to eat outside or in another pre-approved eating space (e.g., personal office).

Tents

The campus is providing tents in multiple areas on campus. The intent of the tents is for students to use for virtual classes and for independent study. These spaces have been arranged using the campus 8-foot hexagonal physical distancing guidelines and masks are required in these spaces. These spaces are not Designated Dining Areas. However, the campus recognizes that students may choose to eat in these spaces. To help minimize the potential for virus transmission, sanitization supplies will be provided in designated outdoor spaces for students to use before and after use. Signage will be provided to reinforce the need for personal hygiene, to sanitize the seating areas before and after use, and to wear a mask at all times unless actively eating or drinking.

Designated Study Spaces

Buildings on campus are providing designated study spaces for students to use for virtual classes and for independent study. These spaces have reduced occupancy limits based on the 8-foot hexagonal physical distancing guidelines. Designated study spaces are not Designated Dining Areas and masks are required. However, the campus recognizes that students may choose to eat in these spaces. To help minimize the potential for virus transmission, sanitization supplies will be provide in or near designated study spaces for students to use before and after use. Signage will be provided to reinforce the need for personal hygiene, to direct students to eat outside when feasible, to sanitize the seating area before and after use, and to wear a mask at all times unless actively eating or drinking. If an individual elects to eat in one of these spaces, the density is reduced to one person per room.

Breakrooms/Kitchens

Breakrooms and kitchens which are managed by individual departments are often intended for food consumption, but for the purpose of this document they are not considered Designated Dining Areas because food is not prepared and served in these spaces. These spaces have the trash removed daily and the floors are spot cleaned as needed. Breakrooms and kitchens are not cleaned or disinfected regularly, and management of these areas is the responsibility of the building or department that oversees the space. Personnel who use breakrooms and kitchens must always maintain physical distancing, are responsible for wearing a face covering unless actively eating or drinking and are responsible for cleaning and disinfecting areas that were touched before leaving. Similar to the multi-use public space guidelines outlined above, the limitations and responsibilities of these spaces must be communicated to the users by the department that manages the space.

Offices

Employees who have their own personal offices are encouraged to use them for eating where they can maintain social distancing. A mask is not required while inside of a personal office with the door closed. Individual offices are not cleaned and disinfected by custodial staff; spot cleaning of floors is conducted once every other week. Any cleaning or disinfection of the office and emptying of trash and recycling is the responsibility of the person(s) assigned to the office.

University Memorial Center (UMC) and Center for Community (C4C)

The UMC and C4C have historically served as a central hub for the campus community and provided multiple eating and dining options. Designated Dining Areas are not available in the UMC and C4C at this time and masks are required. Spaces in the UMC and C4C have reduced occupancy limits based on the 8-foot hexagonal physical distancing guidelines and additional efforts have been made to increase distancing between seating areas. Signage will be provided to reinforce the need for personal hygiene, to direct students to eat outside when feasible, to sanitize the seating area before and after use, and to wear a mask at all times unless actively eating or drinking. These spaces are considered first-come-first-served.

Residence Halls

To limit the potential for extended close personal contact between unmasked individuals, students who want to eat in their residence hall are encouraged to eat in their assigned residence hall rooms or in available outdoor areas. Common areas in residence halls (e.g., lounges) have reduced occupancy limits based on the 8-foot hexagonal physical distancing guidelines. Residence hall common areas are not Designated Dining Areas and masks are required. Eating and drinking are not permitted in Residence Hall common areas to help minimize the potential for virus transmission, students must always maintain physical distancing while in these spaces and are responsible for wearing a face covering



unless actively eating. Additionally, students are responsible for cleaning and disinfecting areas that were touched before leaving. Sanitization supplies will be provided in the lobby for students to use before and after use.

References

<https://covid19.colorado.gov/safer-at-home/indoor-events>

CDPHE Environmental Cleaning Guidance for COVID-19: Households AND Regulated Facilities

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1XQnjAL2nzdPnb7Dabz7-fX8Pw7XlyUe8/view>

CDPHE Retail Food Establishment COVID-19 Implementation of Public Health Order

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1pXAFPXCTLqBZvTJpuqrH45YeLB_Jc2wP/view

Cu Boulder COVID-19 Health and Safety Policy

<https://www.colorado.edu/policies/covid-19-health-and-safety-policy>

CDPHE Cleaning Guidance

<https://covid19.colorado.gov/cleaning-guidance>

CDHE Return to Campus During COVID-19: Considerations and Recommendations

https://highered.colorado.gov/sites/highered/files/documents/DHE_FallReturntoCampus_Considerations_Recomm_07082020.pdf

CDPHE Colorado Retail Food Establishment Rules and Regulations

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/18-uo0wlxj9xvOoT6Ai4x6ZMYliuu2v1G/view>

CDPHE COVID-19 Restaurant Reopening: Seating for dine-in service

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/15VhfC5i4TdbufwR9k98wP8McKXIY-bor/view>

CDPHE Notice of Public Health Order 20-22

<https://assets.bouldercounty.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/amended-notice-of-public-health-order-with-definitions.pdf>

CDPHE Guidance for Indoor Events

<https://covid19.colorado.gov/safer-at-home/indoor-events>

CDPHE COVID-19 Guidance for Restaurants and Food Services

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1_yyWSUUnb40TKDBk9EcYcSkQzhCDV8NA/view

CDC Considerations for Institutions of Higher Education

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/colleges-universities/considerations.html#other-resources>

CDC Reopening Guidance for Cleaning and Disinfecting Public Spaces, Workplaces, Businesses, Schools, and Homes

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/reopen-guidance.html>

CDPHE Guidance for Wearing Masks

<https://covid19.colorado.gov/mask-guidance>

CDC Cleaning and Disinfection for Households

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cleaning-disinfection.html>