

COLORADO GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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Safety Protocols for the First Regular Session of the 73rd General Assembly

The following are the safety protocols for the First Regular Session of the 73rd General Assembly. These protocols are adopted after consultations with a bi-partisan group of legislators, non-partisan legislative staff, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, the National Conference of State Legislatures, and the Governor's office. The purpose of these safety protocols is to ensure a safe and healthy working environment while the General Assembly is convened in session.

Members of the General Assembly are encouraged to follow these protocols and the partisan and nonpartisan legislative staff are required to follow them. Members may consult with their caucus leadership and legislative staff may consult with their direct supervisors if they have any questions or concerns.

Protocols for members and staff who plan to attend session in person

- The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment will provide KN95 masks to all members and staff who plan to attend the session in person. As the KN95 masks are not individually fitted, an additional cloth mask may be worn over the KN95 mask, if needed. These masks should be worn at all times while in the building or anywhere in the Capitol Complex. One mask per member or staff per day will be provided while the legislature is in session. Legislative staff, the press, and the public are required to wear masks while in the building.

- Members and staff who are 65 years of age and older or who have a chronic health condition that puts them at higher risk for contracting COVID-19 and anyone who has had exposure to COVID-19 in the last 14 days are encouraged to participate remotely.
- Anyone experiencing symptoms (including fever, cough, general aches and pains, and fatigue) should not come to the Capitol.
- Everyone in the building is asked to wash their hands frequently especially before and after meetings, floor work, upon entering the building and leaving, etc. Hands should be washed for at least 20 seconds with soap and water. Hand sanitizer will be placed in the chambers, committee rooms, and in public areas.
- Everyone should practice social distancing while in the Capitol Complex, staying a minimum of 6 feet away from others at all times.
- While present in space controlled by the General Assembly pursuant to section 2-2-321, C.R.S., members of the public are subject to all executive orders issued by Governor Polis, public health orders issued by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, and public health orders issued by the Denver Department of Public Health and Environment issued due to COVID-19.
- The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment recommends that anyone participating in the session in person turn on CO Exposure Notifications on their cell phone.

Testing and Health Screenings

- Members, the press, and the public who plan to attend the session in person should participate in a testing regimen prior to and throughout the session. Staff are required to participate in this testing regimen.
 - Anyone participating in person should schedule a PCR test 5-7 days in advance of the session. After taking the test, it is strongly recommended that participants quarantine or limit contact with others until the session begins.
 - According to CDPHE, it is recommended that even those who have already had COVID-19 should still undergo testing.
 - During the session, COVID-19 daily testing will be available for all members who wish to participate and staff who will be attending the session in person. All staff are required to have a test in order to enter the Capitol Building. The test will be the Abbot Binax Rapid test, a nasal swab administered by healthcare providers. Each test takes approximately 15 minutes. This type of testing is most effective if administered regularly. A schedule and locations for testing will be provided by email before session begins. Health screenings and temperature checks will also be administered when testing occurs. Staff and members should plan on arriving at least 30 minutes early to accommodate testing and health screening.

- Upon receipt of a negative Binax test result and a health screening, participating members/staff will receive a bracelet to indicate a negative result. If testing indicates a positive result of COVID-19, a PCR test will be available on-site to be administered and will then be sent via courier to the state lab where results should be returned within 24-48 hours. At the time of receiving a positive Binax test, written and oral recommendations will be delivered urging quarantining, with detailed isolation instructions as recommended by CDPHE and information on how to participate remotely, until receipt of PCR test results.
- Healthcare providers will be stationed at the north and south entrances of the Capitol to administer a healthcare and temperature check to those entering the building without a bracelet.
- For all health screenings, a fever is defined as 100.4 or higher. Anyone whose temperature is 100.4 or higher or who is feeling any symptoms of COVID-19 will be given health recommendations and information about how to participate in the legislative process remotely.
- Those who pass through the health screening and temperature check will receive a bracelet for the day.

Members of the lobby, public, and staff who are able to work remotely

- The public, lobbyists, and others may enter the Capitol during the session. However, to the greatest extent possible, we encourage engagement during the session to occur remotely.
 - Staff should consult with their supervisors to see if they are able to conduct their work remotely for the entirety of the session. Any staff who comes into the building during the session, even briefly, must follow the daily testing regimen listed above.
 - Members of the lobby and the public should participate remotely, if possible. Additional opportunities to participate in committee hearings remotely through submitting testimony will be provided.
 - Tours of the building will remain cancelled.
 - The House and Senate lobbies will be closed and cards will not be accepted.
 - For those in the lobby and press who choose to attend in person, COVID testing will be offered and is strongly encouraged prior to entering the building.

Committees

- During committee hearings, members will participate in person, but should maintain social distancing and wear their masks for the duration of the committee hearing. Additional efforts will be made to increase ventilation and provide additional sanitization in committee rooms.

- Members of the public and the lobby are strongly encouraged to participate remotely whenever possible, including through the electronic submission of written testimony.
- Members of the public and the lobby may submit written testimony on any bill from the time the bill is scheduled until the committee takes action on the bill. Members of the public and the lobby are encouraged to submit written testimony in lieu of testifying in person. We are exploring providing additional remote testimony options, which will be announced at a later date, if feasible. Our goal is to increase public accessibility as much as possible while ensuring safety in the Capitol.
- Members of the public, lobbyists, and staff who participate in a committee hearing in person must wear a mask for the duration of the committee hearing and maintain social distancing while in the audience. Individuals providing testimony in person will register to testify by filling out an electronic form, rather than a paper sheet. The form will be available one hour before the scheduled start time of the bill hearing.

House and Senate Chambers

- In the interest of minimizing risk to each other and to the staff members who are unable to leave the chamber, members are encouraged to listen to floor proceedings online from their office or via the internal speaker systems located in various leadership offices. Members might consider this option for both Second and Third Readings.
- Caucus leadership will work to communicate with members who wish to speak at the well and with the presiding officer to ensure that each member who wishes to speak will have the opportunity to do so.
- Members are asked to wear their masks when in the chambers, including when seated at their desks.
- Plexiglas dividers will be installed in both the House and the Senate chambers and both will be sanitized on a regular basis. Members who wish to increase their social distancing will have the option to be seated in and to vote from the gallery or side benches of their respective chambers.
- During Third Reading in the House, the voting machine will be left open for a longer duration to allow members to rotate in and out of the chamber to vote and allow those voting remotely to cast their votes.

President Leroy Garcia, Chair

Speaker-Designate Alec Garnett, Vice-Chair

Majority Leader Stephen Fenberg

Majority Leader Daneya Esgar

Minority Leader Chris Holbert

Minority Leader Hugh McKean