

COLORADO GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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February 16, 2021

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

The following are the updated safety protocols for the First Regular Session of the 73rd General Assembly. These protocols are adopted after consultations with a bipartisan 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 who plan to attend the session in person, upon request. As the KN95 masks are not individually fitted, an additional cloth mask may be worn over the KN95 mask, if needed. 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 of the public, press, lobbyists, staff, and members can request a KN95 mask at the

south entrance to the Capitol. Legislators and staff can get a KN95 mask at the front desks of the House and Senate chambers

- 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 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, even those who have been vaccinated or who have already had COVID-19 should still undergo regular testing.
 - During the session, at-home tests will be available and recommended for all members and required for staff who will be attending the session in person on a regular basis. Staff who have signed up for the at-home testing must participate fully by following all testing protocols and instructions. The Abbot BinaxNOW rapid test is mailed to an individual's home in a kit of six for use every five days with a live telehealth visit and smartphone app. Each test takes approximately 15 minutes. Test results are uploaded

through an online system and sent to CDPHE. If a positive test result is received, the department will begin contact tracing and contact the individual with guidance. Those participating in the at-home testing protocol can request a new kit every 20 days through an online portal.

- In-person rapid testing will be available for staff who come to the Capitol only occasionally, as well as for members of the public, press, and lobbyists. In-person rapid testing will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7:30 to 10:30 a.m. in the SSB 1st floor conference room. An in-person rapid test will take approximately 15 minutes and is required for any staff not participating in the at-home testing protocol. Additional in-person testing times may be scheduled upon request through the Legislative Council Staff.
- Healthcare providers will be stationed at the south entrance of the Capitol to administer a health screening, including a temperature check, to those entering the building. The basement entrance on the north side of the building will also be open for health screenings for legislators and employees.
- 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 come 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 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, rapid COVID testing is strongly encouraged prior to entering the building. Testing will be offered on Tuesday and Thursday mornings; further details are included under the Testing and Health Screenings section above.

Committees

- During committee hearings, members 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 or remote 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. Remote testimony will also be available through the Colorado General Assembly website. Members of the public and the lobby are encouraged to participate remotely in lieu of testifying in person. 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.

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President Leroy Garcia

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President Leroy Garcia, Chair

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Majority Leader Stephen Fenberg

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Chris Holbert

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Minority Leader Chris Holbert

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Speaker Alec Garnett

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Speaker Alec Garnett, Vice-Chair

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Majority Leader Daneya Esgar

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Hugh McKean

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Minority Leader Hugh McKean