

**RESOLUTION No. \_\_\_\_\_**

**SUPPORTING THE RIGHTS OF INDIVIDUALS AND  
BUSINESSES TO BE FREE TO CHOOSE HOW TO PROTECT  
THEMSELVES FROM COVID-19**

**March 22, 2021**

WHEREAS, We have accepted the shared responsibility of protecting the most vulnerable and at-risk in Mesa County, and we have done that; and

WHEREAS, The original intent of the Stay at Home order was to flatten the curve to ensure adequate capacity in our hospitals. Overall hospital bed usage in Mesa County continues to decrease, so hospital capacity is no longer an issue; and

WHEREAS, Our local businesses are important to the economic health of our community and are especially critical to those they employ, their families, and their customers. Our local small businesses have been at a disadvantage when compared to national businesses; and

WHEREAS, Mesa County residents are ready to resume their routines and build back our economy.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT MESA COUNTY'S FREE TO CHOOSE INITIATIVE WILL GO INTO EFFECT AT THE POINT IN WHICH ALL MESA COUNTY RESIDENTS 16 YEARS OF AGE AND OVER HAVE ADEQUATE ACCESS TO THE COVID-19 VACCINE. WE ANTICIPATE THAT DATE TO BE AFTER APRIL 16, AND NO LATER THAN MAY 1, 2021.**

Under this Resolution:

1. Businesses may choose whether or not they will limit capacity within their facility and whether or not they will require face coverings, social distancing, or other safety measures.
2. Individuals may choose whether they want to continue to wear face coverings, stay at home, or frequent businesses that may or may not require face coverings, social distancing, or other safety measures.
3. Mesa County Public Health (MCPH) will continue to encourage all residents to wear a face covering and to social distance whenever possible. However, it is ultimately up to individuals to choose what level of risk they are comfortable taking, and how to best protect themselves and their loved ones.

4. For the time being, MCPH will continue to recognize 5-Star facilities but they must continue the practices they've adopted to maintain the designation.
5. Organizers of events are encouraged to implement social distancing and other safety measures. Events with more than 2,500 attendees must go through a plan review process with MCPH.

Nothing in this Resolution intends to force people to not wear a face covering or to leave their home if they are not comfortable. Nothing in this Resolution intends to force businesses to not require face coverings or social distancing. Rather this Resolution empowers people to make these choices for themselves.

DULY MOVED, SECONDED and PASSED this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of March, 2021.

**MESA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

Janet Rowland, Chair \_\_\_\_\_  
 Scott McInnis, Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_  
 Cody Davis, Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:


\_\_\_\_\_  
 Tina Peters, Mesa County Clerk & Recorder

DULY MOVED, SECONDED and PASSED this 17<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2021.

**MESA COUNTY BOARD OF PUBLIC HEALTH**

Errol Snider, Chair \_\_\_\_\_  
 Will Hays, Vice-Chair \_\_\_\_\_  
 Gretchen Gore \_\_\_\_\_  
 Connie Mack \_\_\_\_\_  
 Kevin R. Fitzgerald \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

  
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 Jeff Kuhr, CEO/Secretary