

<p>FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT EL PASO COUNTY AND TELLER COUNTY</p>	<p>Chief Judge Order 21-07 May 18, 2021</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>CHIEF JUDGE ORDER 21-07 REGARDING COURT OPERATIONS BEGINNING JUNE 1, 2021</b></p>	

On May 13, 2021, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention updated its guidance for fully vaccinated people by significantly reducing mask and social distancing recommendations. This update did not change the protective steps unvaccinated people should continue to take.

On May 14, 2021, Governor Polis amended his Covid-19 order to allow fully vaccinated people to go without masks in public indoor places, subject to certain exceptions.

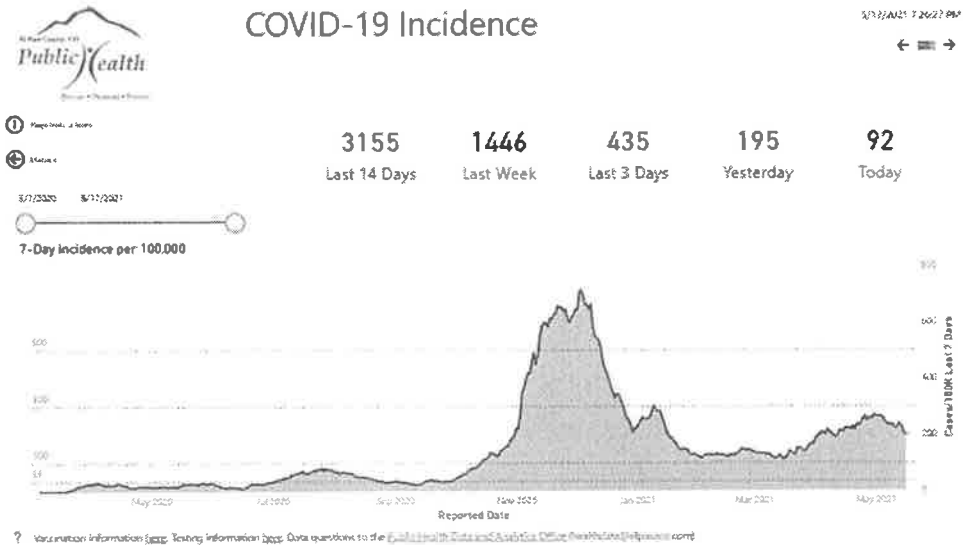
On May 14, 2021, the Colorado Department of Health eliminated social distancing requirements for groups of 100 or fewer in indoor settings.

On May 17, 2021 Chief Justice Brian Boatright issued his Order Regarding Safety in Colorado Courthouses, which continues the requirement that all people in the public areas of Colorado Courthouses wear masks until June 18, 2021. This order leaves it to each Chief Judge to consult with local health authorities to decide what social distancing requirements should be continued.

Since Fourth Judicial District CJO 21-06 issued on May 4, 2021, the Covid-19 incidence numbers have been slowly declining, as shown in the graphs on the following page:

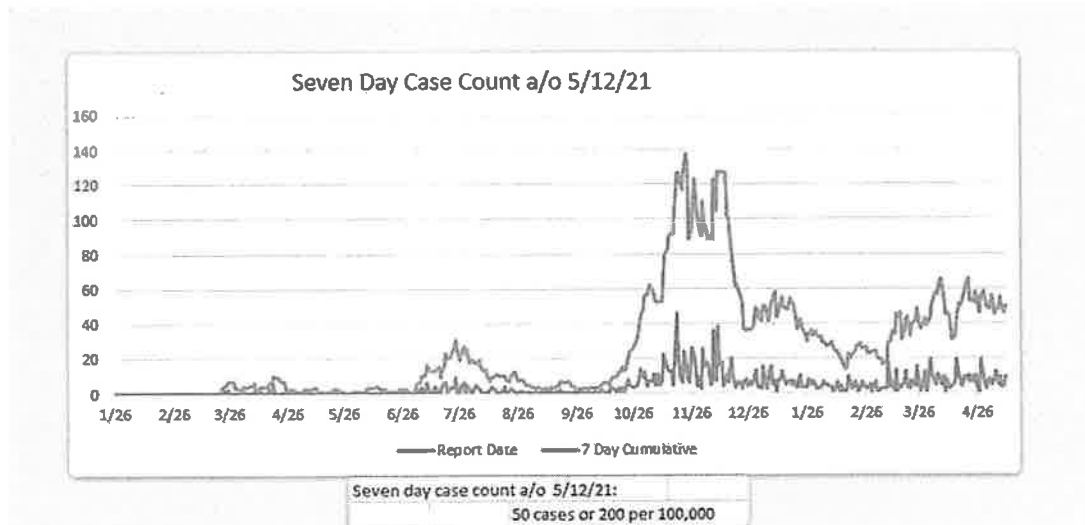
El Paso County:

# Public Health Data and Analytics



<https://www.elpasocountyhealth.org/covid19-vaccine-data-dashboard>

Teller County:

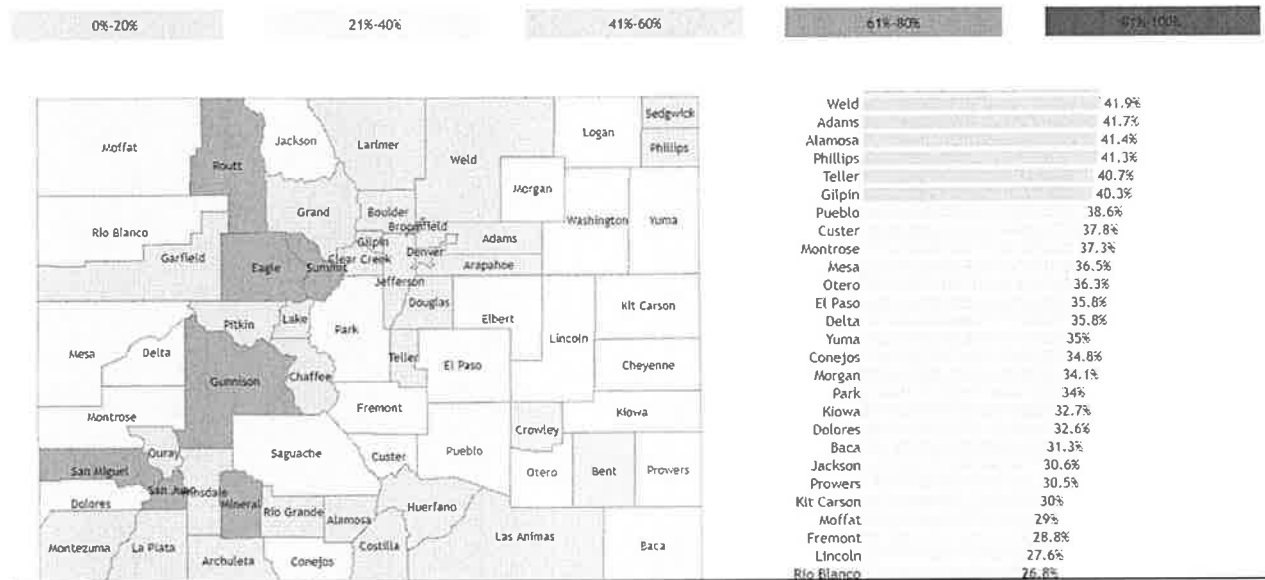


<https://www.tellercovid.com/>

As of May 17, 2021, 35.8% of El Paso County residents are fully immunized. In Teller County, 40.7% of residents are fully immunized.

### Percent of Eligible County Population Fully Immunized with COVID-19 Vaccine

Select counties to highlight their difference between percent of doses shipped and percent of state population.



<https://covid19.colorado.gov/vaccine-data-dashboard>

In preparing this order, I have also consulted with the El Paso County Health Department regarding a gradual return to pre-pandemic operational levels.

Unlike private businesses—which individuals choose to visit—the courts require significant numbers of people to attend court proceedings every day. Among those required by law to come to court are citizens summoned for jury duty.

In light of the above information, to ensure the safety of everyone coming to the El Paso County Courthouse and Teller County Combined Courts, and pursuant to the authority granted in Chief Justice Brian Boatright’s May 17, 2021 Order Regarding Safety in Colorado Courthouses and Chief Justice Directive 95-01, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

- **That anyone in public areas of the El Paso County and Teller County Combined Courts shall continue to wear masks until July 2, 2021.<sup>1</sup>**
- **Beginning June 1, 2021, anyone in the El Paso County Courthouse and Teller County Combined Courts shall maintain three-foot distancing from those who are not members of the same household.**

<sup>1</sup> Consistent with Governor Polis’s order (D 2021 103), this mask requirement does not apply to children ten years old and younger or to people who cannot medically tolerate a face covering.

Furthermore, since April 2, 2021, all adult citizens in Colorado have been eligible to obtain a Covid-19 vaccination. By July 6, 2021, any adult wanting to be fully vaccinated for Covid-19 will have had sufficient opportunity to do so. Depending on the course of the pandemic over the next six weeks and any new orders issued by Governor Polis, Chief Justice Boatright, or the Colorado Department of Health in the meantime, the Fourth Judicial District courts intend to resume normal or near-normal operations starting July 6, 2021, with masks required only for those who are not fully vaccinated.

**1. Courthouse Operations:** The El Paso County Courthouse and Teller County Combined Courts will remain closed to the public EXCEPT as to:

- A. Contested evidentiary hearings and trials in Criminal and Juvenile Delinquency cases where mask and social distancing requirements can be strictly complied with, both in the courtroom and in any hallway;**
- B. Sentencing hearings where mask and social distancing requirements can be strictly complied with, both in the courtroom and in any hallway;**
- C. Contested evidentiary hearings and trials in Domestic Relations, Probate, and Juvenile cases where mask and social distancing requirements can be strictly complied with, both in the courtroom and in any hallway;**
- D. Probation supervision matters where the Probation Department or a Probation Officer has requested a meeting in person and where mask and social distancing requirements can be strictly complied with; and**
- E. Exceptions set forth in “Teller County Court Covid-19 Order re: Evictions and Civil Cases;”**
- F. Exceptions set forth in Section 6 of this order;**
- G. This order does not affect Division CVL’s Operating Order.**

**2. ALL OTHER COURTROOM PROCEEDINGS shall occur by Webex or telephone, except as set forth in Section 6 of this order.**

The Webex information for each division is available at:

**El Paso County:** <https://tinyurl.com/y4259jb6>

**Teller County:** <https://tinyurl.com/yxuz5ya4>

Courtroom division phone number information is attached to the end of this order.

3. For only those public safety filings listed in Section 6 of this Order, the **El Paso County Clerk of Court's Office** will be open from **8 a.m. to 12p.m.** and **1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.**, Monday through Friday, with the exception of legal holidays. The **Teller County Clerk of Court's Office** will be open from **8 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**, Monday through Friday, with the exception of legal holidays. All other paper filings shall be mailed directly to the courthouse, dropped into the drop-off box at the main entrance to the El Paso County Courthouse, or e-filed through the Colorado Courts E-filing system (CCE).

#### 4. **JURY TRIALS**

Jury trials shall continue as they have, until June 1, 2021.

Starting June 1, 2021 and ending July 2, 2021, the El Paso County Courthouse will be able to accommodate the following trials:

- a) Two to four felony jury selections each day Monday through Thursday;
- b) Two misdemeanor jury selections each day Monday through Thursday;
- c) One CV jury trial Monday and one CV jury trial Tuesday in what was formerly the Metro jail; and
- d) One JV jury trial Wednesday and one JV jury trial Thursday in what was formerly the Metro jail; and
- e) Every day of the week, a large panel of jurors (up to 80) will be available for single-day jury selection in the Jury Assembly Room for first degree murder cases and other similar trials requiring large panels.

Starting June 1, 2021, the Teller County Combined Courts may conduct the trials it is able to following the three-foot social distancing and mask requirements.

Further information regarding jury trials can be found at:

**El Paso County:** <https://tinyurl.com/4JDJury>

**Teller County:** [https://www.courts.state.co.us/Courts/County/Jury.cfm?County\\_ID=7](https://www.courts.state.co.us/Courts/County/Jury.cfm?County_ID=7)

- 5. Parties without attorneys** shall contact the court clerk for the division where their case is pending to receive further directions. A list of division phone numbers is attached to this order. A list of the Court's division phone numbers can also be found at:

[https://www.courts.state.co.us/Courts/District/Contact.cfm?District\\_ID=4](https://www.courts.state.co.us/Courts/District/Contact.cfm?District_ID=4)

In leaving any voicemail message, parties without attorneys shall include their first and last names, their phone number, their email, and a case number, if available.

Defendants may also contact division staff by sending an email to the Court at [4thclerkofcourt@judicial.state.co.us](mailto:4thclerkofcourt@judicial.state.co.us). Email correspondence will then be forwarded to the appropriate division.

**Failure by an unrepresented criminal defendant to contact the division clerk by Webex, phone, or email within 24 hours after any scheduled court date may result in the issuance of an arrest warrant.**

If the division clerk gives an unrepresented criminal defendant a new court date by telephone, the division clerk shall order the defendant to appear by Webex or telephone on that next court date. Any such defendants shall immediately notify their bondsmen that their bond has been continued until the next court date.

Any bondsman who objects to any procedure of continuing bonds set forth in this Order shall promptly communicate in writing to Chief Judge Bain the nature of the objection.

- 6. Public Safety Matters:** The El Paso and Teller County Combined Courts will continue to accept filings and conduct hearings on public safety matters. Whenever practical, these proceedings shall occur by Webex or phone.

Public safety matters are **limited** to the following:

- A. Petitions for temporary civil protection orders and permanent protection order hearings;
- B. Petitions and hearings for temporary emergency risk protection orders and emergency risk protection orders;
- C. Crim. P. Rule 5 advisements (bonded or video advisement in the duty division);
- D. Revocation hearings on complaints to revoke probation involving an incarcerated defendant;
- E. Proceedings necessary to protect the constitutional rights of criminal defendants, including bond-related matters and plea agreements for incarcerated individuals;
- F. Juvenile detention and advisement hearings for juvenile delinquency cases;
- G. Shelter hearings in dependency and neglect cases;
- H. Petitions for appointment of an emergency guardian and/or special conservator and hearings related to same;
- I. Hearings on motions to restrict parenting time and parental abduction prevention;
- J. Emergency mental health filings and proceedings; and
- K. Other proceedings deemed necessary and exceptional by the Chief Judge.

7. **Social Distancing:** When hearings or trials under Sections 1, 4, or 6 of this order are conducted anywhere in the El Paso County or Teller County Combined Courts, judicial officers and court staff shall reasonably limit in-person participation and shall follow all mask and social-distancing requirements.

8. **Self-Help Centers:** The self-help center at the El Paso County Courthouse is **closed to in-person help until further notice**. All court forms and instructions can be found at [https://www.courts.state.co.us/Self\\_Help/Index.cfm](https://www.courts.state.co.us/Self_Help/Index.cfm). For additional assistance or to schedule a virtual self-help session, email [04SelfHelp@judicial.state.co.us](mailto:04SelfHelp@judicial.state.co.us) or call (719) 452-5100.

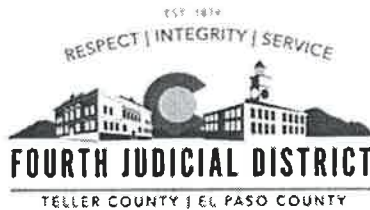
9. **Probation:** The probation staff is conducting most business by phone or video conferencing. Please call your Probation Officer directly or email [firstname.lastname@judicial.state.co.us](mailto:firstname.lastname@judicial.state.co.us), or you can contact the Probation Department main office at 719-452-5900 or [04probation@judicial.state.co.us](mailto:04probation@judicial.state.co.us). If the court or someone from probation has informed you to report in person, our lobby hours are Monday-Friday from 8:00am-5:00pm. Voicemails and emails are checked daily; when leaving a message, please indicate the level of urgency of your situation. Due to a high volume of calls and emails, please allow 24 hours for a response prior to contacting the Probation Department again.



Will Bain  
Chief Judge



Date





The Webex information for each division is available at:

**El Paso County:** <https://tinyurl.com/y4259jb6>

**Teller County:** <https://tinyurl.com/yxuz5ya4>

**Division Phone Numbers:**

El Paso County Clerk's Office	719-452-5000
Teller County Clerk's Office	719-689-7360
Div 1 – Judge Billings Vela	719-452-5229
Div 2 – Judge David Prince	719-452-5235
Div 3 – Judge Thomas K. Kane	719-452-5274
Div 4 – Judge David Shakes (Vet Court)	719-452-5279
Div 5 – Judge Jessica Curtis	719-452-5365
Div 6 – Judge Chad Miller	719-452-5544
Div 7 – Judge David Gilbert	719-452-5287
Div 8 – Judge Eric Bentley	719-452-5449
Div 9 – Judge Timothy Schutz	719-452-5358
Div 10 – Judge Erin Sokol	719-452-5446
Div 11 – Judge Scott Sells (Teller District)	719-689-6926
Div 12 – Judge Laura Findorff	719-452-5244
Div 13 – Judge Marcus Henson	719-452-5281
Div 14 – Judge Marla Prudek	719-452-5233
Div 15 – Judge Gregory R. Werner	719-452-5285
Div 16 – Judge G. David Miller	719-452-5255
Div 17 – Judge Jann DuBois	719-452-5259
Div 18 – Judge Deborah Grohs	719-452-5443
Div 19 – Judge Robin Chittum	719-452-5352
Div 20 – Judge Jill Brady	719-452-5291
Div 21 – Judge Michael McHenry	719-452-5547
Div 22 – Judge William Bain	719-452-5522
Div 23 – Judge Catherine Mitchell Helton	719-452-5177
Div 24 – Judge Frances Johnson	719-452-5122
Div A – Judge Denise Peacock	719-452-5349
Div B – Judge Samuel Evig	719-452-5207
Div C – Judge Monica Gomez	719-452-5203
Div D – Judge Dennis McGuire	719-452-5191
Div E – Judge Sam Burney	719-452-5355
Div F – Judge TBD	719-452-5360
Div G – Judge Ann Rotolo	719-452-5242
Div H – Judge Shannon Gerhart	719-452-5193
Div J – Judge Meredith Patrick Cord	719-452-5420
Div K – Judge Douglas Miles (DV Court)	719-452-5197
Div T – Judge Theresa Kilgore (Teller County)	719-689-7360
Div 5L – Magistrate Daphne Burlingame (Drug/Heals)	719-452-5210
Div CVL – Magistrate Andrea Paprzycki	
Div M – Magistrate Greg Duncan	719-452-5392
Div N – Magistrate Shawn Witkus	719-452-5201
Div NCS – Magistrate Karen Parrot (Child Support)	719-452-5252
Div O – Magistrate Bill Moller	719-452-5523
Div P – Magistrate Lara Nafziger	719-452-5221
Div Q – Magistrate Jami Vigil (DUI and Family Drug)	719-452-5401
Div R – Magistrate William Trujillo	719-452-5212
Div S – Magistrate David Lindeman	719-452-5216

Div V – Magistrate Jayne Candea-Ramsey	719-452-5248
Div W – Magistrate Vincent Rahaman	719-452-5003
Div X – Magistrate Lauren Bynum	719-452-5540
Div Y – Magistrate Gail Warkentin	719-452-5415
Div Z – Magistrate Jeffrey Saufley	719-452-5419