

WHAT'S NEXT?

Lawmakers, industry leaders and officials give their best guess for life post-pandemic



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kelly Meyer of Avon takes in the view and sun on March 31, in Avon. Getting fresh air and exercise is key to maintaining good mental health during social restrictions.

BY COLORADO POLITICS STAFF

It's not hyperbolic to say that the coronavirus pandemic has upended every aspect of Colorado life.

Interstate traffic jams at rush hour have been replaced by Zoom meetings and face masks. Health care workers worry about face masks and ventilators while legislators set aside deliberations on price caps and cost-shifting for hospitals, while the engines of the state economy sit idle with no end in sight.

"We will find our way out of this darkness, and into the light of a brilliant new day," Gov. Jared Polis promised in an address carried statewide on April 7.

While officials work out the health emergency, they're taking stock of what's ahead and what's likely to never be the same after a global pandemic that will deliver economic aftershocks for months, if not years or decades.

The staff at Colorado Politics talked to

officials, lawmakers, businesspeople and other industry leaders to find out an answer to a simple question: What's next?

For some it was looking at the hurdles; for others, it meant taking stock of what's been lost. Others are still in the middle of the storm, trying to determine how they'll know when it's over. It's by no means a complete list; but, just like the first small step, it's a start.

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