

Tom Jankovsky

District 1

John Martin, Chair

District 2

Mike Samson, Chair Pro Tem

District 3



May 15, 2020

Jill Hunsaker Ryan
Executive Director
Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
4300 Cherry Creek South Drive
Denver, CO 80246

Re: Variance Request for Executive Order D 2020 044 and CDPHE Order 20-28

Dear Director Ryan:

Garfield County is respectfully requesting a variance for the provisions of Governor Polis' Executive Order D 2020 044 Safer at Home, and CDPHE Order 20-28. A variance, as outlined in CDPHE Order 20-28, will allow Garfield County to implement its own Roadmap to Reopening for Restaurants (CDPHE Order II.A), Places of Outfitters Worship (CDPHE Order IIB and Appendix F.5), Fitness Facilities and Gyms (PHO V.), Recreation Places, and Tourist Attractions. This will allow Garfield County to balance our community's needs for safety and welfare with a framework that matches local conditions.

Garfield County's first positive case of COVID-19 was reported on March 14, 2020. To date, we have had 110 positive cases. The county has seen 14 hospitalizations of Garfield County residents and have had two deaths. The county has seen a reduction in cases since our peak during the middle of March. There are two hospitals in Garfield County including Valley View Hospital and Grand River Health and they returned to elective medical service on April 27th and May 4th, respectively.

Garfield County has been following the Governor's Orders throughout the COVID-19 Stay at Home and Safer at Home stages and are requesting the loosening of restrictions that make sense for our local conditions. This action will not burden our public health services inside or outside of Garfield County. Our Public Health Department will continue to regulate social behaviors, events, types of businesses that may reopen, and travel around the County, to control disease transmission. Hospital capacity remains more than adequate to address COVID-19 cases, testing supplies are sufficient and public health resources are available for contact investigation and tracing.

Garfield County respectfully requests the approval of our variance request on behalf of our residents, employees, business owners and visitors, as part of the implementation of our Roadmap to Reopening. Thank you for your consideration of our local reopening plan and our request for a variance.

Sincerely,



John Martin, Chair



Mike Samson



Tom Jankovsky