



COLORADO
Department of Public
Health & Environment

May 23, 2020

John Martin, Chair
Mike Samson, Chair Pro Tem
Tom Jankovsky, Commissioner
Garfield County Board of Commissioners
108 8th Street, Suite 101
Glenwood Springs, CO 81601

Yvonne Long, Director
Garfield County Public Health

RE: Garfield County Variance Request from portions of **Executive Order D 20 044** and **Public Health Order 20-28**

Dear Commissioners:

Thank you for your application to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) of a variance request to portions of **Executive Order D 20 044 Safer at Home** and **Public Health Order 20-28 Safer at Home**. I have had an opportunity to review your request for variances regarding restaurants, places of worship, fitness facilities and gyms, recreation areas, outfitters, and large tourist attractions. This variance approval is limited to 5 functions for which you requested a variance, which include restaurants, houses of worship, fitness facilities and gyms, recreation areas, and outfitters. In all other respects, the requirements of the Safer at Home Executive Order and Public Health Order remain in effect for Garfield County.

As stated in Appendix G to PHO 20-28, when reviewing a variance request, we evaluate the current prevalence of COVID-19 in the jurisdiction, including whether cases are increasing, stable, or decreasing. In reviewing Garfield County's current status with respect to the COVID-19 pandemic, we note that the county has had 120 cases to date, with 13 of those cases occurring in the last two weeks, which is a two week incidence of 22 per 100,000. Your application describes a strong public health system in Garfield County, with effective disease investigation and surveillance, and partnership with local hospitals that have the capacity to provide care to ill individuals.

Your variance request is for up to 50% capacity in Garfield County restaurants, houses of worship, and fitness centers and gyms, and includes specific requirements for each of these settings. These requests are approved with the following additional requirements:

Garfield County Variance
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- In order to achieve 6 feet distancing the limit is 50% of the posted occupancy code limit ensuring a minimum 28 square feet per person not to exceed more than 175 people gathered in a confined indoor space at any given time.

The following requests are not authorized to move forward at this time, but we will reevaluate this determination on June 1, 2020:

- Large tourist attractions

This variance approval is granted based on the facts and circumstances today as you have described them in your request. If the county were to exceed 60 new cases in two weeks, the variance is automatically rescinded. Additionally, CDPHE reserves the right to modify or rescind this variance approval as circumstances warrant. This approval is in effect until the final expiration of PHO 20-28, which will be extended in some capacity beyond the current expiration date next week.

I appreciate your thoughtful approach to these challenging issues and wish you all the best in your continuing efforts to ensure that Garfield County residents are safe and healthy as we deal with this global pandemic. Garfield County is a valued partner, and we are available to answer any questions and work with you on these matters. Please give me a call if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Jill Hunsaker Ryan, MPH
Executive Director