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June 11, 2020  
Jill Hunsaker Ryan  
Executive Director  
Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment  
4300 Cherry Creek South Drive, Denver, CO 80246

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

Dear Director Ryan,

Garfield County, supported by Garfield County Public Health, is respectfully requesting a second variance from Governor Polis' Executive Order D 2020 044 and accompanying CDPHE Order 20-28. The key premise of Garfield County's plan is to ensure social distance requirements are well understood and can be met by businesses and the general public as gathering sizes are progressively increased. This variance will allow Garfield County to continue to protect the health and welfare of the public by promoting social distancing, which continues to be the most effective tool in reducing the spread of COVID-19. In general, Garfield County is working to move away from an approach that permits certain businesses to operate and prohibits others. Instead, allowing a consistent approach to all businesses based on the known disease transmission mechanism and ensuring social distancing requirements will be implemented. Guidance, however, will be provided by type of business as safe operations will still remain business specific.

Garfield County's first positive case of COVID-19 was reported March 14th. To date, 3,378 people have been tested and testing capacity has continued to increase across the county. As of June 8, 2020, Garfield County has 170 positive cases, 2 deaths, and there have been 22 COVID-19 patients in area hospitals, with two of those patients transferred to other hospitals. Updated case data is available at <https://www.garfield-county.com/public-health/garfield-county-covid-19-cases/>.

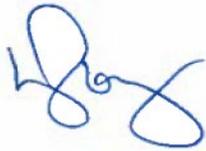
Garfield County Public Health has reviewed approximately 900 business social distancing plans. These plans have been beneficial in opening up sectors of the economy while promoting public health. We would require businesses to continue to engage in best practices in mitigating spread, including social distancing, environmental cleaning, and contactless environments.

With declining positive cases, existing protective measures and infrastructure, Garfield County is in a position to continue loosening restrictions, which may be different than those in the State of Colorado's Safer at Home order. The relaxing of these restrictions is not anticipated to impact health or medical resources within Garfield County.

Given the current data, the measures and infrastructure currently in place, confidence is high that there will be no significant impacts to local health and medical resources. Garfield County hospitals (Valley View Hospital and Grand River Health) are safely able to treat all patients requiring hospitalization without resorting to crisis standards of care. Additionally, newly reported cases of COVID-19 continue to decrease or flatten out at levels that do not exceed capacity to investigate.

Garfield County appreciates the time and effort required to process variance requests and looks forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'H. Long', written in a cursive style.

Executive Director