



June 12, 2020

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

Re: *Garfield County's 3rd Variance Request - Executive Order D 2020 091 and/or 5th Amended Public Health Order 20-28 Safer at Home and in the Vast, Great Outdoors.*

Dear Director Ryan:

Garfield County is respectfully requesting a variance from the provisions of Governor Polis' Executive Order D 2020 091 and/or 5th Amended Public Health Order 20-28 Safer at Home and in the Vast, Great Outdoors. This variance will allow Garfield County to implement the **Variance Phase III** portion of our Roadmap to Reopening (attached). Garfield County is requesting approval to govern and manage the COVID-19 response at the local level. We propose to use a tailored approach based on our Road Map to Reopening. Our road map is right sized for our local community and is supported by our ability and capacity to respond and manage cases, as evidenced by our Public Health resources and hospital support. This approach allows Garfield County to make independent decisions about the governance and operation of our COVID-19 response. 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. As of June 9th, 2020 Garfield County has 170 COVID-19 cases. The County has seen an uptick in cases, but we have not seen a doubling of cases over the previous 14-day periods. The recent increase in cases stem from clusters that we have been able to identify and implement quarantine and isolation protocols through the work of our increased contact tracing nurse team. We are not seeing community-spread of COVID-19 in Garfield County currently. 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. Both hospitals have submitted letters in support of this variance request, attached.

Garfield County has been following the Governor's Orders throughout the COVID-19 Stay at Home and Safer at Home and in the Vast, Great Outdoors 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 more than sufficient and public health resources are readily 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.

Commissioner John Martin, Chair

Commissioner Tom Jankovsky

Commissioner Mike Samson