



COLORADO
Department of Public
Health & Environment

May 22, 2020

J. Mark Roeber, Chair
Don Suppes, Vice Chair
Mike Lane, Commissioner
Delta County Board of County Commissioners
Delta County Courthouse
501 Palmer Street, Suite 227
Delta, CO 81416-1796

Karen O'Brien
Public Health Director
Delta County Health Department
Kobrien@deltacounty.com

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

Dear Commissioners and Ms. O'Brien:

Thank you for your application to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) requesting a variance 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 and consider the information provided, and determine that the request is approved, with some amendments, as explained further below. This variance approval is limited to the three functions for which you requested a variance; in all other respects, the requirements of the Safer at Home Executive Order and Public Health Order remain in effect for Delta County.

You asked for a variance related to four specific functions, including Restaurants, Houses of Worship, and Fitness Centers. Your application addresses particular requirements that you propose as an alternative to the Safer at Home model for each of these areas. The data and information included in your request demonstrates that Delta has reported 36 confirmed and 55 total COVID-19 cases, with sufficient testing capacity, 2.5 FTE to provide investigation and contact tracing, a focus on congregate care settings such as nursing facilities and assisted living residences, and sufficient hospital capacity to care for COVID-19 positive patients.

Regarding Delta's thresholds for rescinding the alternate restrictions proposed in the variance, we agree with these triggers including all of the following: a greater than 10% positivity rate, more than 4 ICU hospitalizations at a given time, or 6 new cases per day for 3 days.

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With respect to the three areas that you requested receive a variance, each is authorized with the amendments described below to the COVID-19 Suppression Plan.

For Restaurants, employees must be screened for symptoms each day before beginning work, and those who are symptomatic must be excluded from the facility and required to remain in isolation for 10 days, per CDC guidance.

This variance approval is granted based on the facts and circumstances today as you have described them in your request. If any of the County's triggers of a greater than 10% positivity rate, more than 4 ICU hospitalizations at a given time, or 6 new cases per day for 3 days occurs, then this 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 currently is set to expire on May 26, 2020 but may be extended.

I appreciate your thoughtful approach to these challenging issues, and wish you all the best in your continuing efforts to ensure that Delta County residents are safe and healthy as we deal with this global pandemic. Delta 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jill Hunsaker Ryan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jill Hunsaker Ryan, MPH
Executive Director