



COLORADO
Department of Public
Health & Environment

May 20, 2020

Emma Davis
Public Health Director
Fremont County Department of Public Health
and Environment
201 N. 6th Street
Canon City, CO 81212

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

Dear Ms. Davis:

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 five 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 Fremont County.

You asked for a variance related to five specific functions, including Restaurants, Fitness Facilities, Places of Worship, Recreation and Outfitters. Your letter 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 Fremont has reported 22 COVID-19 cases as of May 6, 2020, with no new cases since April 25, 2020, and sufficient hospital capacity to care for COVID-19 positive patients.

We reached out to you for clarity concerning Fremont's thresholds for rescinding the alternate restrictions proposed in the variance, we agree with the trigger of 25 cases more occurring in a week would exceed your current resources Fremont County would not be able to timely keep up with response activities and complete contact tracing to respond to outbreaks.

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

In all settings, the following requirements must be met:

- Customers or patrons should be asked about symptoms before entering or participating in the activity, and service or participation should be declined if they are symptomatic.

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- Employees must be screened for symptoms each day before beginning work, and those who are symptomatic must be excluded from the place of worship and required to remain in isolation for 10 days, per CDC guidance.

For Restaurants, the following additional requirements apply:

- Recommend that the sign posted at the door is the CDC sign (also available in Spanish) <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/316129-B-StayHomeFromWorkPoster.pdf>

For Fitness Facilities, the following additional requirements apply:

- Given the many unknowns regarding how the SARS CoV-2 virus responsible for COVID-19 is spread, use of equipment in the gym must be limited to no closer than every other machine so that participants are not exercising right next to each other and smaller exercise rooms with poor ventilation should be discouraged from use.
- No equipment may be shared between customers unless they are household contacts.

For Places of Worship, the following additional restrictions apply:

- Require cleaning and disinfection after any use of the worship space.

For Recreation, with respect to camping, Governor Polis authorized camping effective May 12, 2020. Your proposal allowing campgrounds to open at 50% capacity, with no shared facilities other than restrooms that must be cleaned every 2 hours is reasonable. The following additional requirement applies to Recreation:

- Prior to opening, outdoor recreation facilities shall submit a plan for reopening demonstrating how they will implement social distancing and other best practice disease control measures to the Fremont County Health Department for review and approval.

For Outfitters, we understand that you have rescinded your request for a variance regarding railroad services. All other proposed restrictions for the remaining Outfitters, which include rafting companies, helicopter tours, skydiving, zipline and Jeep tours are approved.

This variance approval is granted based on the facts and circumstances today as you have described them in your request. If the County's threshold of 25 or more cases requiring investigation in a week 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 Fremont County residents are safe and healthy as we deal with this global pandemic. Fremont 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.

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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