



COLORADO
Department of Public
Health & Environment

May 22, 2020

Jonathan Houck, Chair
John Messner, Vice Chair
Roland Mason, Commissioner
Gunnison County Board of County Commissioners
200 East Virginia Avenue
Gunnison, CO 81230

Joni Reynolds, Director
Gunnison County Health and Human Services

RE: Gunnison 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, bars and taverns, and campgrounds. Considering the information provided, I have determined that the request is approved, with some amendments, as explained further below.

Gunnison County has a positivity rate consistently below 5%, with 4 cases in the last 2 weeks, which corresponds to a two week incidence of 23 per 100,000. Per the application, Gunnison County Public Health has a robust public health system, including disease investigation and surveillance capabilities, testing availability, and sufficient hospital capacity to take care of COVID-19 cases.

For the indoor settings for which you seek a variance, in order to achieve 6 ft social distancing given a confined space, a limit of 50% of the posted occupancy code is required, ensuring a minimum 28 sq feet per person, not to exceed more than 175 people at any given time.

Your request to open restaurants at 25% capacity, and also for gatherings to expand to 25 people, are approved, consistent with the additional requirements included in your application for restaurants.

For campgrounds, campground operators are also required to ensure regular and thorough cleaning and disinfection of any shared service, such as restrooms and showers.

For places of worship, the following requirements must also be met:

Environment

- Provide at least 6 feet of distance between individuals or between groups of a single household.
- Guests shall not be permitted to wait in the lobby area or in lines outside the door. No gatherings before, during or after services.
- Face coverings should be strongly encouraged for all guests.
- Post signs at entrances regarding face coverings, and post signs throughout the facility as needed to remind guests of social distancing and proper hygiene.
- Cleaning and disinfection after any use of the worship space.
- Place markings on the floor to maintain at least a six-foot distance where a line may form.
- Implement one-way entry/exit and directional walkways as much as possible.
- Implement touchless offering and communion options as much as possible (e.g. do not pass around the offering plate, make available individual offerings that can be picked up by individuals to limit touching, pre-packaged and/or grab-and-go).
- Perform regular environmental cleaning and disinfection of bathrooms and high touch surfaces and maintain a cleaning log.
- No self-service refreshments.
- Make available handwashing stations and/or sanitizer.

Employees

- Monitor employees and volunteers for one of the following symptoms:
 - Cough
 - Shortness of breath/difficulty breathing
 - Or two or more of the following symptoms:
 - Fever
 - Chills
 - Repeated shaking with Chills
 - Muscle Pain
 - Headache
 - Sore throat
 - New loss of taste or smell
- Symptomatic employees MUST be excluded from the workplace
- Employees and volunteers shall be required to wear a non-medical cloth face covering over the nose and mouth, individuals that cannot wear a mask shall not be permitted to work at this time.

Participants

- Make reasonable accommodations for vulnerable populations who are still under the Stay at Home advisement. (e.g. online viewing, visits to their home). Discourage any such individual from traveling to and/or entering the facility.
- Do not allow anyone to attend any event/activity in person if they are experiencing symptoms of any illness.

You also requested that bars be authorized to open; however, bars are not authorized at this time. As more guidance is issued in the coming weeks on opening additional settings, you may wish to reapply for consideration of opening bars.

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 17 new cases in a two week period, 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 Gunnison County residents are safe and healthy as we deal with this global pandemic. Gunnison 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