



May 23, 2020

Timothy V. Corrigan, Commissioner
Douglas B. Monger, Commissioner
Beth Melton, Commissioner
Routt County Board of Commissioners
522 Lincoln Avenue, Suite 30
Steamboat Springs, CO 80487

Kari Ladrow, Director
Routt County Public Health

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

Dear Commissioners and Director Ladrow:

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.

As stated in Appendix G to PHO 20-29, when reviewing a variance request, we evaluate the current prevalence of COVID-19 in the jurisdiction, including whether cases are increasing, stable, or decreasing. In reviewing Routt County's current status with respect to the COVID-19 pandemic, we note that the county has had 59 cases to date with just 1 case occurring within the last 2 weeks. Your application describes public health's capabilities to investigate new cases within 24 hours, provide an isolation order and trace and quarantine close contacts, as well as adequate hospital capacity to address COVID-19 cases as well as other medical issues by UC Health Yampa Valley Medical Center.

I have determined that the request is approved, with some amendments, as explained further below.

- In restaurants, in order to achieve 6 ft social distancing, the limit is 50% of the posted occupancy code limit ensuring a minimum 28 square feet per person not to exceed more than 175 people at any given time.

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 26 new cases in a week, the

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variance is automatically rescinded.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 Routt County residents are safe and healthy as we deal with this global pandemic. Routt 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