May 23, 2020

Julie R. Kibel, County Commissioner
Steve Garchar, County Commissioner
Floyd Cook, County Commissioner
Dolores County Board of Commissioners
409 N Main Street
Dove Creek, CO 81324

Mary Randolph, Director
Dolores County Public Health Agency

RE: Dolores 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, and based on the information submitted, your variance requests for restaurants and graduation are approved. This variance approval is limited to the two functions for which you requested a variance, which include restaurants and graduation. In all other respects, the requirements of the Safer at Home Executive Order and Public Health Order remain in effect for Dolores County.

As stated in Appendix G to PHO 20-28, 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 Dolores County’s current status with respect to the COVID-19 pandemic, we note that the county has no cases to date.

Your variance application sets a 50% cap on restaurants, and proposes an extensive list of requirements for these establishments to follow. Additionally, the variance application indicates that bars are to remain closed. These conditions of reopening are approved. The graduation plan that you submitted with the variance application is also approved.

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 more than 100 cases per 100,000 population in a two week period (2 cases in two weeks), the variance is automatically rescinded.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 Dolores County residents are safe and healthy as we deal with this global pandemic. Dolores 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