



**COLORADO**  
Department of Public  
Health & Environment

June 6, 2020

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Gilpin County Board of County Commissioners  
P.O. Box 366  
Central City, CO 80247

RE: Gilpin County Variance Request from portions of **Public Health Order 20-28**

Dear Commissioners:

Thank you for your application to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) requesting a variance to portions of **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.

You asked for a variance related to the following specific functions of Casinos and Museums. Your COVID-19 Suppression Plan 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 Gilpin County has had 5 COVID-19 cases to date including 2 epi-linked cases in the last two weeks, and community testing of all symptomatic residents beginning on June 2. Additionally, case investigations and close contact tracing and follow-up is available due to volunteers and additional support from Jefferson County Public Health and the Regional epidemiologist. Additionally, while no hospital facility exists in Gilpin County, patients are transferred to Boulder Community Health and St. Anthony's Hospital in Lakewood for necessary care.

For all settings, the following requirements apply:

- In order to achieve 6 ft social distancing, the limit pursuant to this variance 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 in a confined indoor space, and 250 people in any outdoor setting.
- Employees and contracted workers shall be monitored daily for symptoms, and symptomatic employees shall be excluded from the workplace and isolated until they are fever free for 72 hours, other symptoms have improved, and at least 10 days have passed since they became symptomatic.
- Provide accommodations for employees at higher risk of severe illness from COVID-19 who remain encouraged to follow the Stay at Home requirements.

Gilpin County Variance  
June 6, 2020

- Require signage on doors telling guests that are experiencing COVID-like symptoms not to enter, and 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-StayHomeFromWork\\_Poster.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/316129-B-StayHomeFromWork_Poster.pdf)

In addition to the requirements in the Suppression Plan, **museums** must also meet the following requirements:

- Customers should be encouraged to wear face coverings into and inside the museum.
- Customers must be asked whether they have COVID-19 symptoms at the door and excluded from the facility if symptomatic.
- The building must be cleaned and disinfected regularly.
- Mark lines for a minimum of six feet distancing.
- Offer touchless payment options wherever possible.

Finally, you proposed to open **casinos**. Upon further inquiry, you agreed to a revision to your variance proposal that only opens the slot machines in the casino. Opening of the slot machines only is approved at this time, with the following additions to what you propose in your application:

- Any closing of the slot machines cannot be done in such a manner to intentionally improve the odds in favor of the house when it comes to payouts.
- Any bus systems that transport people to the casinos must be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected on a daily basis and cleaned between each transport.

Gaming tables are not approved at this time, but will be considered again in three weeks.

This variance approval is granted based on the facts and circumstances today as you have described them in your request, and is subject to adjustment if conditions worsen as described [here](#). You are currently in the “low” level. If the County identifies that a threshold of 2 or more unlinked cases occurs in a two week period, notify CDPHE and then implement a mitigation plan for 2 weeks to try and restore virus transmission levels to the baseline under which the variance was approved. If after 2 weeks the levels are not restored, then the capacity limits are automatically adjusted to the maximum of the new level (low goes to medium, medium goes to high). If the county started at the “high” level for the variance, and after the 2 weeks of mitigation the baseline has not been restored, then the variance is 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 of June 30, 2020.

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

Gilpin County Variance  
June 6, 2020

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