

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

KIT CARSON COUNTY
PO BOX 160
BURLINGTON CO 80807-0160

PH: 719-346-8139 (304)
FX: 719-346-7242

Gary Koop,
District 1 Commissioner
Cory Wall,
District 2 Commissioner
Dave Hornung,
District 3 Commissioner

April 22, 2020

Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
Attention: Jill Hunsaker Ryan, Executive Director
4300 Cherry Creek Drive South
Denver, CO 80246

Dear Ms. Ryan,

The Kit Carson County Board of County Commissioners and the Director of Kit Carson County Department of Public Health and Environment, are respectfully requesting partial relief from the provisions of the Governor Polis Executive Order D 2020 017, CDPHE Order 20-22 and CDPHE Order 20-24 (the "State Orders"). Specifically, Kit Carson County is requesting exemptions from the provisions that prohibit travel except for necessary activities, disallowance of certain types of businesses to reopen, and limiting the businesses that may remain open only to those identified as critical or those performing minimum basic operations (including the expansion of hair salons, dental, and other allied health providers). Kit Carson County is located in a rural-frontier setting, and nearly all of the businesses listed as "critical" in the Orders comprise an estimated 80% of all business, and limiting the remaining business from opening does not make economic or practical sense. Kit Carson County has been and will continue to monitor how businesses conduct social distancing, help them adjust their operating guidelines and apply social distancing parameters to all businesses located in the county. This would include wearing of masks, providing curb side service, distancing consumers to 6 feet or great while the business, etc. The largest stores in the county have been open throughout the entire first 8 weeks of the COVID-19 response because they are categorized as "essential". We believe that opening the remaining small businesses in the county will have little or no effect on the ability to maintain a flattened curve in the county.

With the exception of a nursing home outbreak, Kit Carson County has seen the COVID-19 curve flatten and the number of community cases decrease because of the county's early and consistent social distancing restrictions. We have determined that the community will receive greater health and behavioral health benefits by loosening restrictions regarding what businesses can reopen at this time. Allowing all Kit Carson County businesses to reopen with social distancing rules in place, Kit Carson County will still regulate social behaviors, events, and business operation guidelines through public health orders that are fair to both the business community as well as the public's health.

We have reviewed several examples of county reopening plans, and believe that the Mesa County Plan most closely aligns with our desire to move forward in a phased approach. See Attachment A which includes Kit Carson County's reopening plan, (developed from Mesa County's Plan). The Plan demonstrates that disease prevalence is consistently reducing as a result of local containment measures. In addition, hospital capacity in Kit Carson County

Susan Corliss,
Clerk & Recorder

Cure & Bain, P.C.,
County Attorney

Paula S. Weeks,
Administrator

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remains adequate to address COVID-19 cases as well as other medical issues. The conditions within Kit Carson County are being maintained and are improving and do not warrant all of the restrictions that persist after "Safer at Home" is implemented on April 27th. Allowing Kit Carson County to customize its restrictions specifically to the conditions in the county will allow community recovery, both in terms of health, economy, and behavioral health. Therefore, we are respectfully requesting that you grant Kit Carson County's request for relief from restrictions regarding what businesses can reopen at this time.


Kit Carson County Commissioners



Cory Wall, Chairman



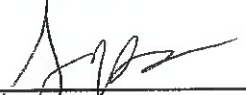
David L. Hornung



Gary Koop



Dawn James, Public Health Director and Health Officer



Sacramento Pimental, MD, Medical Director

Susan Corliss,
Clerk & Recorder

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