



**CHEYENNE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

P.O. Box 567, 51 South 1<sup>st</sup>      Cheyenne Wells, CO 80810      Website: [www.co.cheyenne.co.us](http://www.co.cheyenne.co.us)  
Phone: (719) 767-5872      Fax: (719) 767-5753      Email: [ccadmin@rebeltec.net](mailto:ccadmin@rebeltec.net)

April 28, 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,

Cheyenne County Board of County Commissioners and the Director of Cheyenne County Public Health, respectfully request to be excluded from the provisions of Governor Polis' Executive Order D 2020 017, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) Order 20-22, and CDPHE Order 20-24 (the "State Orders"). Exclusion from these orders will allow Cheyenne County to implement a well thought out plan that fits our county needs. The attached document outlines our reopening plan. Testing began March 17<sup>th</sup> and fortunately our case counts remain at zero. Our county is frontier in nature, we are spread out over 1800 square miles to be exact. Much of our community was never affected by the "stay at home orders" as many of us are considered "essential." If I were to provide a list of businesses that closed due to the orders of Governor Polis it would be less than 5 in our most densely populated community. Cheyenne County residents are desirous of making informed decisions about our community based on our specific situation.

We are asking that you seriously consider this plan as it makes sense to loosen restrictions and we'd like to have the option to do that based on the knowledge we have of our community. Our plan is designed to not cause undue burden on our local hospital, public health, or surrounding communities. Cheyenne County feels that we are capable of managing any COVID-19 cases as they arise.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ronald R. Smith".

Ronald R. Smith  
Commissioner Chairman

*Ronald R. Smith, Commissioner, Chairman*

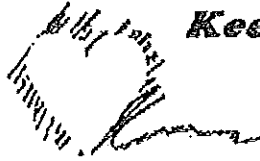
*Darin C. Dickey, Vice Chairman*

*Patrick J. Ward, Commissioner*

*Marcy E. Brossman, Administrator*

*Patricia Daugherty, Clerk to the Board*

# *Keefe Memorial Health Service District*



## **Keefe Memorial Hospital**

*PO Box 578  
Cheyenne Wells, Colorado 80810  
(719) 767-5661*

April 27, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

Keefe Memorial Hospital supports the plan to reopen Cheyenne County. Cheyenne County is a very sparsely populated county with less than 1 person per square mile.

Keefe Memorial Hospital is in daily contact with Cheyenne County Public Health regarding patients being tested for COVID-19. We have only tested 15 patients that were symptomatic or had potential exposure. All tests have been confirmed negative for COVID-19. There are no cases in Cheyenne County.

Keefe Memorial Hospital and our clinics screen every person who presents to our facility for access. Our doors remain locked to allow entrance where and when it is deemed appropriate.

The Cheyenne Manor nursing home is on lock-down and we support their decision. We send support staff to assist as they need for lab draws, physical therapy, etc.

A large percentage of our county residents are Critical Infrastructure workers.

As a whole, people understand the need to keep physical distancing to keep our vulnerable population safe.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Stella Worley". The signature is fluid and appears to be written in black ink.

Stella Worley, CEO

## PLAN TO REOPEN CHEYENNE COUNTY

### RECOMMENDED GUIDELINES FOR ALL PHASES AND SECTORS (AS APPLICABLE):

- Perform routine environmental cleaning and disinfection
  - Healthcare facilities
  - Postmortem care facilities
  - Laboratories
- Other, non-healthcare facilities
- Monitor workforce for compatible symptoms.
- Non-COVID symptomatic employees should wear a cloth face cover
- Implement or maintain return to work policies
  - Healthcare facilities
    - Critical infrastructure workers after exposure

### PHASE 1-

#### Public gatherings

- Recommend gatherings of no more than 10 people and maintain physical distancing whenever possible

#### Businesses

- Encourage telework, wherever possible
- Encourage Practice 6-foot physical distancing
- Close common areas where employees are likely to congregate OR implement physical distance protocols
- Continue to limit or prohibit non-essential travel
- Consider return to work in phases as applicable
- Implement or maintain flexible sick leave policies and practices
- Consider accommodations for vulnerable populations

#### Retail, personal services, and restaurants (as applicable)

- Practicing 6-foot physical distancing
- Implement or continue early opening for high-risk populations
- Implement or maintain physical barriers for high-contact settings (e.g. cashiers)
- Implement or maintain one-way isles
- Utilize face cloth coverings for employees and contracted workers whose duties include close contact with members of the public
- Continue curbside services in businesses where it applies
- Stagger shifts if feasible to decrease employee numbers at the business.
- Maximum of 10 people for in-dining and common areas.
- Close waiting areas

- Space tables and lines
- Implement no touch payment, as appropriate
- Encourage all public to wear masks to enter retail businesses

#### Recreation

- Maintain physical distancing in outdoor settings (6ft for hikers, 15ft for runners/bikers)
- Open outdoor recreation facilities where adequate controls can be implemented to ensure physical distancing
- Limit gatherings to no more than 10 people
- Maintain restrictions and cleaning guidelines for restrooms

#### Education

- Open in-person learning for specific settings (e.g. technical college)
- Limit classrooms to no more than 10 people
- Maintain 6-foot physical distancing in classrooms

#### CONSIDERATIONS:

- Large venues (movie theaters, sporting venues, places of worship) can operate IF strict physical distancing practices are possible
- Gyms can open IF strict physical distancing and cleaning practices are possible. Group classes are not be allowed at this phase.
- Businesses and recreation facilities NOT permitted to open in this phase will be based on epidemiological evidence of risk for transmission, populations that may be at higher risk for severe disease, and inability to meet the limitations on size of gatherings or congregations

#### ONGOING PROHIBITIONS:

- Services to high-risk populations
- Visitation to hospitals and senior living facilities
- Schools and organized youth activities that are currently closed
- Bars

#### PHASE 2-

##### Public gatherings

- Recommend gatherings of no more than 30 people and maintain physical distancing whenever possible

##### Businesses

- Non-essential travel is highly discouraged
- Recommend following guidance for number of personnel in building based on square footage (based on fire code as the denominator)

- Recommend 6-foot physical distance in common areas where employees are likely to congregate.
- Consider accommodations for vulnerable populations

**Retail settings:**

- Recommend Bars operate with diminished standing-room occupancy, as applicable
- Recommend gyms open IF the ability to follow strict physical distancing practices are possible. Group classes can resume.
- Recommend grocery stores maintain phase 1 operations, but relax the face covering requirement

**ONGOING PROHIBITIONS:**

- Services to high-risk populations
- Visitation to hospitals and senior living facilities

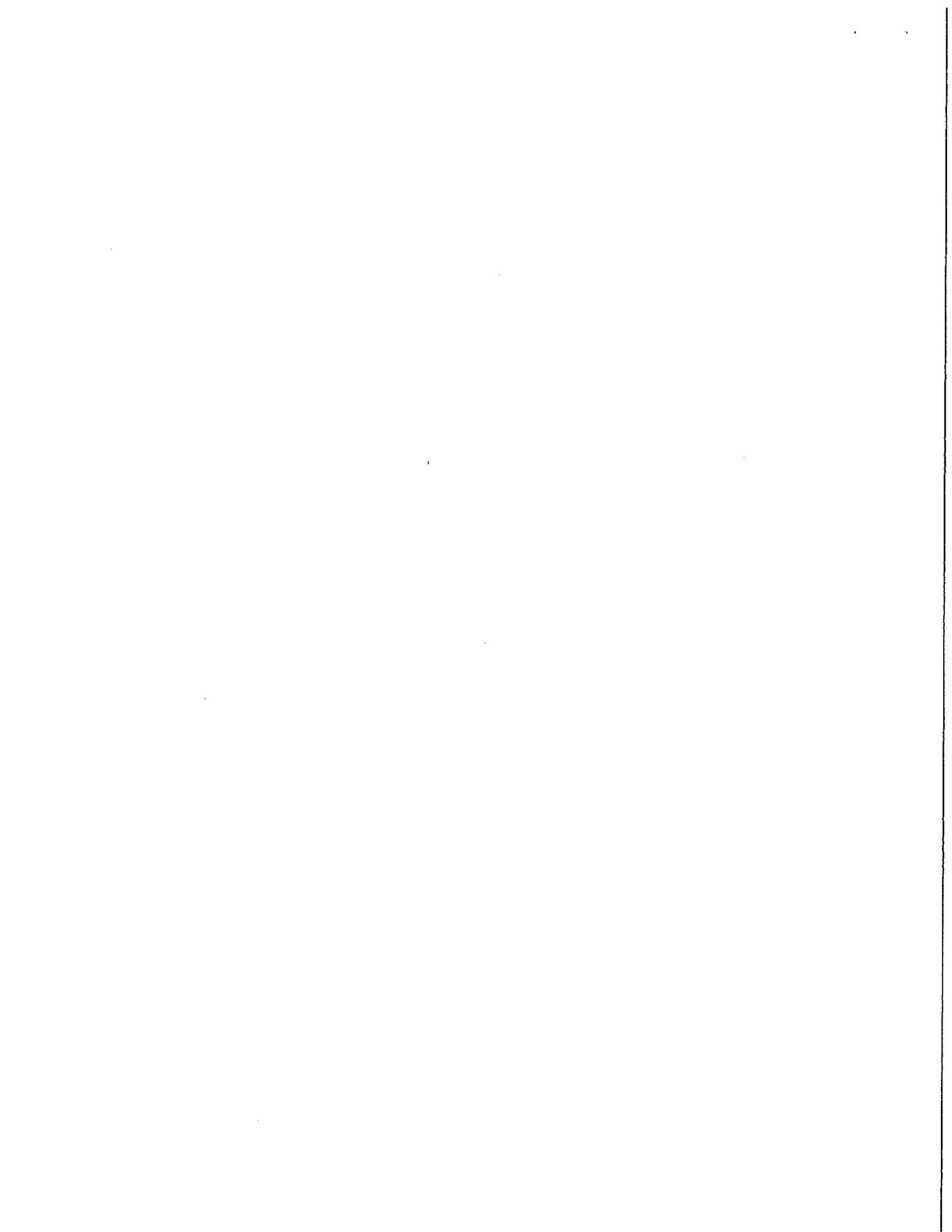
**PHASE 3-**

- To Be Determine

**NOTES:**

CCPH will continue to monitor the spread of disease through syndromic surveillance (COVID-like symptoms), testing, and hospitalizations.

- Newly reported cases of COVID-19 will be investigated within 24 hours
- All cases will be adequately isolated for minimum of 7 days with an objective of no household transmission





## COLORADO

Department of Public  
Health & Environment

May 14, 2020

Kelli Adamson  
Executive Director  
Cheyenne County Public Health  
560 West 6 North  
PO Box 38  
Cheyenne Wells, CO 80810

RE: Application for Variance from Public Health Order 20-28 Safer at Home

Dear Ms. Adamson:

Thank you for your recent application for a variance from Public Health Order (PHO) 20-28 Safer at Home to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE). Thank you for sharing Cheyenne County's story and particularly how the COVID-19 virus is creating economic hardship. We want to support counties' ability to be less restrictive than the state, in geographic areas where it makes sense. 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<sup>1</sup>.

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. Your application and recent data demonstrate that Cheyenne County has had several recent cases; however, you have managed those cases and do not anticipate seeing additional related cases. Additionally, you have set triggers for rolling back the variance authorization, such as 10 new positive cases in a week.

You asked for a variance related to three specific functions, including Restaurants, Places of Worship, and Public Gatherings. 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 Cheyenne has sufficient hospital capacity, ongoing testing, and ongoing public education.

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<sup>1</sup> The documents included with the Cheyenne variance request included information pertaining to areas for which the county did not identify in its variance application that it sought a variance. This approval addresses only the three (3) areas identified in the application for variance, namely planned public gatherings, places of worship, and restaurants. Note that the variance process is not applicable to voluntary and elective surgeries and procedures; those items are addressed in **Executive Order D 2020 045** and **Public Health Order 20-29**, neither of which authorizes a variance process.

## Cheyenne Variance Decision

May 14, 2020

For public gatherings, in Phase 1 you propose to limit to no more than 10 individuals, and no more than 30 in Phase 2. In addition to these number limitations, we also require the following restrictions:

- Require face coverings
- Require 6 feet distancing between individuals, other than those of the same household
- For planned public gatherings of more than 10 individuals, require submission of a plan for social distancing and other disease mitigation strategies to the Cheyenne County Health Department for review and approval

For Restaurants, in addition to the requirements outlined in your Plan, include the following requirements:

- Restaurant employees must be screened for symptoms each day before beginning work, and those who are symptomatic must be excluded from the workplace and required to isolate for 7-10 days, per CDC guidance. Information on symptom screening can be found [here](#).
- Restaurant employees must wear face coverings, covering the nose and mouth, at all times while working.
- Customers must be asked prior to entering a restaurant whether they have any symptoms of COVID-19, and any customers reporting symptoms must be excluded.
- Customers must wear face coverings when entering the restaurant until seated at their tables.
- Restaurants cannot allow customers to wait in a lobby area for a table, rather customers should make reservations online or by phone, and every effort should be made to notify customers via text or phone call when their table is ready so no waiting in a lobby is necessary.
- Limit occupancy to 10 individuals as described in the Plan or fewer if necessary to maintain 6 feet distancing.

For Places of Worship, in addition to strict distancing as required in the Plan, include the following requirements:

- May allow participants up to thirty percent (30%) of building code occupancy
- Participants must be asked whether they have COVID-19 symptoms at the door and excluded from the place of worship if symptomatic.
- Participants should be encouraged to wear a face covering both when entering and while present in the house of worship, except when specific participation in the service requires removal, such as to receive communion.
- Maintain a minimum of 6 feet of distance between individuals who are not of the same household.
- Disallow gatherings in the lobby or church vestibule at all times.
- Implement touchless offerings and communion or sacrament options as much as possible.



Cheyenne Variance Decision

May 14, 2020

- Employees must be screened for symptoms each day before beginning work, and those who are symptomatic must be excluded from the place of worship and required to remain in isolation for 10 days, per CDC guidance.
- Employees must wear face coverings or masks covering the nose and mouth at all times while working.
- Require cleaning and disinfection after any use of the worship space.

This variance approval is granted based on the facts and circumstances today as you have described them in your request, and is limited to the three specific variance requests made in the application; all other requirements of the state's Safer at Home Executive Order and Public Health Order remain in effect for Cheyenne County.

Should circumstances change such that, for example, surges in COVID-19 transmission occurs, cases exceed the capacity for Cheyenne County to fully implement all effective disease control strategies as described in your request, or if resources or COVID-19 prevalence statewide in our opinion requires a different approach, CDPHE reserves the right to modify or rescind this variance approval. This approval is in effect until the final expiration of PHO 20-28, which currently is set to expire on May 26, 2020 but may be extended.

We appreciate the work that you are doing in these difficult times to prevent further spread of disease and we are here to provide technical assistance if you need it. We look forward to working with you as a valued partner in public health.

Sincerely,



Jill Hunsaker Ryan, MPH  
Executive Director