

April 23, 3030

Eagle County Government  
500 Broadway St,  
Eagle, CO 81631

Dear Director Harmon and Eagle County Commissioners:

Thank you for your letter requesting partial relief from the provisions of Governor Polis's Executive Order D 2020 017 (Stay at Home), CDPHE Order 20-22, and CDPHE Order 20-24. Both the rationale and proposed "step down" plan are thoughtful and Eagle County is well positioned to take this next step.

The state's local variance process is intended to allow communities that are currently not experiencing a high rate of COVID-19 transmission to tailor social distancing policies to local conditions, in order to promote community wellness and economic stability for families in Eagle County. You indicated this need in your request, noting that while disease transmission is down, the requests for behavioral health services and economic assistance are up. It is clear that you are not proposing to be "open for business" but rather are using a model, similar to the state's upcoming Safer at Home model, that still promotes people staying home and working from home, but with a thoughtful loosening of restrictions around some businesses. We understand that you will require businesses to have a social distancing protocol and other disease prevention strategies in place prior to re-opening.

It is worth noting the key data points that make the department comfortable in granting this variance:

- Eagle County has had early and sustained social distancing restrictions in place since March 12, 2020, and the community has been successful in staying at home
- The number of new cases is less than a handful per day
- There has been a sustained reduction in cases for at least 14 days
- Testing availability and lab capacity exist locally for quick detection of cases
- Eagle County Public Health (ECPH) has the capacity to investigate each new case within 24 hours, provide an isolation order and trace and quarantine close contacts
- ECPH can ensure active monitoring, housing and the provision of other necessities for the duration of an isolation or quarantine order, helping to make these measures successful for individuals.
- Neighboring counties also have decreasing impacts on their health and medical clinics and available hospital capacity

In addition, we understand that testing for COVID -19 has been and continues to be available within the county as well as a multi-week stock of PPE. The department is in receipt of a letter from Vail Health verifying there is hospital capacity available to meet the community's needs.



Finally, we commend Eagle County for your data dashboard and the metrics that you are tracking daily that can serve as an early warning system, should the community begin to see an increase in transmission, which may trigger the need to put more restrictions in place.

Sincerely,



Jill Hunsaker Ryan, MPH  
Executive Director

