



**FREMONT COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF  
PUBLIC HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT**

201 N. 6<sup>th</sup> Street  
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**Public Health Order 02-2020  
Safer At Home Fremont County  
May 6, 2020**

**Purpose**

Fremont County Department of Public Health & Environment would like to request a variance including Restaurants, Places of Worship, Fitness Facilities, Outfitters and Recreation. This variance implements measures to allow limited reopening of certain industries and businesses in Fremont County while maintaining a sustainable level of social distancing. This order continues social distancing requirements for all Fremont County residents and Stay-at-Home advisements for vulnerable populations pursuant to Executive order D 2020 017. This variance is to be effective within the entirety of Fremont County, including all cities and towns within the limits of Fremont County, Colorado.

**Background**

The Governor of Colorado has issued several Executive Orders to address the current COVID-19 pandemic since March 11, 2020. This includes an Executive order declaring a disaster emergency due to the presence of Corona Virus Disease 2019 in Colorado.

On March 25, 2020, the Governor of Colorado issued executive order D 2020 017, which ordered Coloradans to stay at home due to the presence of COVID-19 in their state. This order was issued in response to the existence of hundreds of confirmed and presumptive cases of COVID-19 and related deaths across the state of Colorado. Further, there is substantial evidence of community spread of COVID-19 throughout the state of Colorado.

On March 25, 2020, The Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment issued Public Health Order 20-24 based on the Governor's Executive Order D 2020 017. On April 1, 2020 the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment updated Public Health Order 20-24 adding clarification to the essential services and social distancing definitions of the Stay-at-Home requirements.

On April 27, 2020 the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment issued the Safer-at-home Public Health Order 20-28, based on the Governor's Executive Order D 2020 044 allowing many Coloradans to return to work while maintaining a sustainable level of social distancing.

On May 6, 2020 the Fremont Department of Public Health & Environment is submitting and requesting for a variance based on the criteria that Fremont County has demonstrated proof of two conditions, very low case counts of COVID-19 and as of the date of this request 11 consecutive days without any new cases of COVID-19 in Fremont County. Fremont County has 17 lab confirmed positive cases and 5 probable cases bringing our total to 22 cases out of a total population of over 46,000 residents in Fremont County.



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There is one hospital located in Fremont County, St. Thomas More Hospital. STMH has 4 ICU beds, 25 med surg beds and 4 ventilators; none of which are currently in use. Per Nancy Bartkowiak, the chief nursing officer at St Thomas More Hospital, they also have enough PPE supplies (gowns, gloves, N95, and faceshields).

Fremont County Department of Public Health & Environment is currently conducting drive through testing twice a week with capacity to test 50 individuals each of those days, as well as going out to the local nursing homes to do in house testing as it is needed for residents. Testing is also being offered for symptomatic individuals with a provider order through the Centura Health Urgent care location in Canon City 7 days a week. Positive cases are being tracked through CEDRS and follow up investigation and tracing is done immediately through Fremont County Department of Public Health & Environment. FCDPHE also anticipates to have an epidemiologist joining our team in June.

Fremont County Department of Public Health and Environment also created a Variance Advisory Committee to review, approve, and amend all variance request. This committee is comprised of one public health epidemiologist, Fremont County Medical Officer, St. Thomas More Hospital, long-term care facility Medical Director and one first-responder representative.

The proposed restriction alternatives Fremont County Department of Public Health & Environment wishes to address are Restaurants (attachment A), Places of Worship (attachment B), Fitness facilities (attachment C), Recreation (attachment D) and Outfitters (attachment E).