



May 23, 2020

Susan Thompson, Chair
Kristine Borchers, Commissioner
Sara Gutterman, Commissioner
Hinsdale County Board of Commissioners
311 N. Henson Street
Lake City, CO 81235

Tara Hardy, Director
Silver Thread Public Health District

RE: Hinsdale County Variance Request from portions of **Executive Order D 20 044** and **Public Health Order 20-28**

Dear Commissioners:

Thank you for your application to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) of a variance request to portions of **Executive Order D 20 044 Safer at Home** and **Public Health Order 20-28 Safer at Home**. I have had an opportunity to review your request for variances regarding restaurants, places of worship, and short term private rentals, and I have determined that the request is approved, with some amendments, as explained further below. This variance approval is limited to the three functions for which you requested a variance, restaurants, places of worship, and short term private rentals; in all other respects, the requirements of the Safer at Home Executive Order and Public Health Order remain in effect for Hinsdale County.

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. In reviewing Hinsdale County's current status with respect to the COVID-19 pandemic, we note that the county has only had 3 cases to date. Your application describes sufficiency in your public health system including collaboration with local health care resources in Hinsdale County, with effective disease investigation and surveillance.

Regarding your proposed alternate restrictions for restaurants, gyms, and houses of worship, your request is approved with the following additional requirements:

- In each confined indoor space, in order to achieve 6 ft social distancing, the limit 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.

Hinsdale County Variance
May 23, 2020

This variance approval is granted based on the facts and circumstances today as you have described them in your request. If the county were to have 2 epidemiologically unlinked cases or more than 2 linked cases, the variance is automatically rescinded.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 next week.

I appreciate your thoughtful approach to these challenging issues and wish you all the best in your continuing efforts to ensure that Hinsdale County residents are safe and healthy as we deal with this global pandemic. Hinsdale County is a valued partner, and we are available to answer any questions and work with you on these matters. Please give me a call if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jill Hunsaker Ryan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jill Hunsaker Ryan, MPH
Executive Director