



COLORADO
Department of Public
Health & Environment

May 16, 2020

Cory Wall, Chairman
David L. Hornung, Commissioner
Gary Koop, Commissioner
Kit Carson Board of County Commissioners
Dawn James, Public Health Director and Health Officer
PO Box 160
Burlington, CO 80807-0160

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

Dear County Commissioners and Director James:

Thank you for your recent resubmissions of an application for a variance from Public Health Order (PHO) 20-28 Safer at Home to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE). We have reviewed your request and are approving the variances for houses of worship and restaurants, with a few additional requirements.

As requested in our May 8, 2020 response to your application, you have selected a trigger for re-implementing restrictions, and we approve the greater than 10 cases in a week trigger that you have identified. Additionally, your application indicates that the drive through testing recently conducted resulted in 48 individuals being tested, only 26 of whom are from Kit Carson County, and only 1 individual tested positive.

Your application specifically seeks a variance from the Safer at Home provisions concerning houses of worship and restaurants. We have reviewed the Suppression Plan, and are limiting our comments to only those sections that pertain to the requested variance areas. In addition to the requirements you list in your suppression plan, the following are also required:

- For restaurants, require employees to wear face coverings or masks at all times while working, and ask customers if they have symptoms of COVID-19 and exclude if symptomatic.
- For houses of worship, require employees screening for COVID-19 symptoms and exclude for 10 days if symptomatic, and further require employees to wear face coverings or masks at all times while working.

This variance approval is granted based on the facts and circumstances today as you have described them in your request. If the County's threshold of 10 more cases in a week occurs, then this variance is automatically rescinded.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

Kit County Variance Decision

May 16, 2020

final expiration of PHO 20-28, which currently is set to expire on May 26, 2020 but may be extended.

I appreciate your thoughtful approach to these challenging issues, and wish you all the best in your continuing efforts to ensure that Kit Carson County residents are safe and healthy as we deal with this global pandemic. Kit Carson 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