



SUMMIT COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH

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May 15, 2020

Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
Attention: Jill Hunsaker Ryan, Executive Director
4300 Cherry Creek Drive South Denver, CO 80246
and *via email*: Jill.Ryan@state.co.us

Re: Summit County Variance Request for the Safer at Home Executive Order and Amended CDPHE Public Health Order

Dear Ms. Ryan,

Summit County is respectfully requesting partial relief from certain provisions of current State of Colorado orders concerning the COVID-19 pandemic, including Governor Polis's Executive Order D 2020 044 and the Amended CDPHE Order 20-28 (the "State Orders"). Specifically, Summit County is requesting exemptions from the State Orders to implement its own reopening plans for restaurants and short-term lodging. Relief from these provisions will allow Summit County to tailor its future public health orders and public health responses based on unique local factors to effectively meet the needs of our community, improve behavioral health of citizens, and begin economic recovery for businesses and workers alike.

Summit County's COVID-19 positive-case curve has flattened, and the number of daily cases has decreased because of Summit County's early and aggressive public health measures and outstanding compliance by our community members. Summit County firmly believes that our community now will receive greater health benefits from incrementally loosening restrictions as disease activity continues to recede. Summit County's efforts to control the spread of COVID-19 in our community have come at great cost to not only our local economy but also to the social and mental health of our community. This cost is most evident by the recent suicides of two high-school students as well as three recent suicide attempts by other school-aged children who survived. These alarming events are worrisome signals of the social, emotional and economic devastation wrought by the COVID-19 pandemic in our small community.

We believe that the limited exemptions we are requesting will not burden public health resources in other parts of the state because through public health orders, Summit County will continue to actively regulate our business community, social behaviors, events, and

the like via our public health orders to control transmission of the disease.

Summit County's Suppression Plan (included as Attachment A), details the justification for this variance request including the decline in COVID-19 cases for at least 14 days. The Suppression Plan demonstrates that disease prevalence is being reduced as a result of local containment measures. In addition, hospital capacity in Summit County remains adequate to address COVID-19 cases as well as other medical issues. Conditions within Summit County are significantly improving and do not warrant all the restrictions within the current State Orders.

Summit County has in place a robust public information system for Summit County residents and business owners, including a PIO team, call center, email helpline, social media channels, web content, ongoing local media outreach, blogs in Spanish and English, and multiple paid advertising campaigns in both languages. As part of the Summit County "Roadmap to Recovery" (included as Attachment B), businesses are required to provide a signed checklist indicating they are meeting social distancing requirements, posting signs, and implementing symptom checking of employees (Attachment C).

Attachments D and E to this variance request provide the specific information and variances Summit County is looking to implement once State approval has been provided. The Board of County Commissioners affirmatively voted on May 14, 2020, to support this partial variance in lieu of the corresponding provisions of the State Safer at Home Order.

We respectfully request that you grant Summit County's request for relief from certain restrictions in the State Orders as detailed in this request and that the variance be effective immediately upon your approval. I certify that the above information is correct to my knowledge. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



—
Amy Wineland, Director
Summit County Public Health and Environment