



COLORADO
Department of Public
Health & Environment

Application for Variance

Name of County: Yuma

Name of Submitter: Andrea Calhoon

Yuma County requests a variance from the following restrictions in Executive Order D 2020 044 and/or Public Health Order 20-28.

List the sections of Executive Order D 2020 044 and/or Public Health Order 20-28 that a variance is being sought for:

Reopening of businesses and progressing sizes of social gatherings. Phase 1 to include commercial businesses other than rest/bars/gyms including offices, retail, personal, elective medical, real estate, places of worship, found on pgs 5, 6, 8. Phase 2 includes restaurants/bars/gyms, community services, recreation with 30% capacity and social distancing found on pgs 6, 7, 8. Phase 3 increases business capacity and increases social gathering size <50, found on pg 4, Phase 4 further increases capacity and social gathering size, found on pg 4

Summarize alternate restrictions being proposed to replace the above-referenced restrictions and indicate where in the Plan these alternate restrictions are addressed:

Business reopenings all require local submission and public posting of social distancing plans which include 30% of fire code capacity initially and various social distancing protocols by business type, 6 foot distances and disinfection practices required. Business capacities and social group sizes to be evaluated on an ongoing basis by local government and medical officials with target date ranges but no set dates as decisions are made on case numbers, hospital resources, and hospital capacity.

Upload your county COVID-19 Suppression Plan and documentation demonstrating approval by the county commissioners, and confirmation from all impacted local hospitals that they can serve all individuals needing their care. Provide a brief summary of each of the following elements contained in the county COVID-19 Suppression Plan and indicate where in the Plan more information can be found for each element.

1. Prevalence of COVID -19 within the county

we have 9 total cases, which recently increased from 3 however a State testing site was recently established. No hospitalizations to date and hospitals reporting sufficient capacity and resources to respond to Phase 1 as outlined. found on pg 2 of attachment

2. Hospital Capacity

Hospitals signed the attached document and verified sufficient resources and capacity to address Phase 1 updates. An established inter-agency communication plan is in place and weekly meetings of the local task force will assess continued capacity and resource needs before implementing new phase, pg 2





3. Local containment measures

Public health recommendations will be publicized by all partners and community education will require continued social distancing, disinfection, social interaction limitations, pg 4

4. Conditions to determine the variance is not providing adequate COVID-19 protection and the triggers for tightening restrictions.

Local task force will meet weekly and additionally as needed to discuss case counts, hospital resources, and hospital capacity and will determine progressive or regressive decisions in phase implementations as warranted, pg 4

 Confirm that the variance requested does not lessen or eliminate the protections for Vulnerable Individuals in the Safer at Home Order and PHO 20-28.

 Confirm that the county will collect and monitor data to evaluate the impacts of the variance. and make such data available upon request by CDPHE.

Additional information relevant to the requested variance

Yuma County measures are being reviewed on a case-by-case and week-by-week basis by the task force and no phase will be introduced without agreement by both hospitals. We seek to open things slowly enough to ensure no dramatic increase in cases, while supporting our local economy and discouraging local residents from travelling outside of the county for services

By signing below, I attest that I am authorized pursuant to the adoption of the COVID-19 Suppression Plan by the Board of County Commissioners to submit this variance request to CDPHE for consideration.

DocuSigned by:
Andrea Carlson
CEAF2BE49806475

2020-05-01

Signature

Date

For internal CDPHE use

CDPHE Executive Director

April 28, 2020

Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
4300 E Cherry Creek South Drive
Denver, CO 80246
Delivered via web portal

Dear Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment:

On April 20, 2020 the Governor unveiled the outline of steps Colorado will take to reopen after the Stay At Home order expires. We are responding to the most recent information available for your consideration and have developed the attached plan based on our understanding of the principles of *Safer at Home*.

Thank you for recognizing that Yuma County is in a unique position as compared with Colorado counties due to our lower disease rate parameters, proactive development of actionable measures, and rural location. As a County with more favorable data we have received approval for the following plan from the Northeast Colorado Health Department.

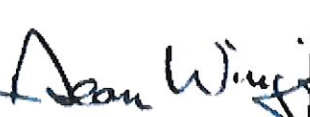
With no sustained surge in the number of cases requiring hospitalization as a result of COVID-19, Yuma County believes as long as our communities continue to make responsible choices, we can, and should, start taking steps to reopen.


We trust and understand as well as respectfully request that Northeast Colorado Health join us in implementing and actively pursuing and advancing the principles in the Yuma County Plan with our community partners and as part of the Northeast Colorado phased approach to reopening. We appreciate the phased approach to mark when various social and economic restrictions can be loosened.

We look forward to continued partnership with our Northeast Colorado Health Department on this solution which promotes economic recovery while assuring appropriate public health measures and progress.

Respectfully,


County Commissioner
District I


County Commissioner
District II


County Commissioner
District III


Wray Community
District Hospital


Yuma District Hospital


Northeast Colorado
Health Department

CC: Governor Jared Polis
Encl: Yuma County Plan for Maximizing Public Health

**YUMA COUNTY PLAN FOR MAXIMIZING PUBLIC HEALTH, WHILE MINIMIZING
STRESSORS ON CITIZENS, A POTENTIAL MEDICAL SURGE,
AND AN ECONOMIC COLLAPSE
APRIL 27, 2020 FIRST PHASE TO
REOPENING**

PURPOSE

In order to minimize the internal and external stressors on citizens, limit the chances for a medical surge in excess of hospital capacity, and avoid an economic collapse, the Yuma County Plan crafts a balance between addressing the current significant emotional and financial impact on citizens and businesses while maintaining public health and infection control capabilities.

Nothing in this pending plan prohibit a local governing municipality from enacting more proactive standards, including but not limited to stay at home orders or additional protective measures.

DISEASE TRANSMISSION CONTROL

- The number of daily positive COVID-19 cases has remained flat since the first positive case was reported to Yuma County at a total of 7 positive cases as of 04/28/2020.
- There have been zero hospitalizations among Yuma County residents as of 04/28/2020.

SUFFICIENT HEALTH CARE AND PUBLIC HEALTH CAPABILITIES

- Yuma County has two critical access hospitals working closely with the Northeast Colorado Health Department accessing the health risk of COVID-19.
- Yuma County hospitals have sufficient COVID-19 testing capabilities. Drive-through sampling facility is operational to test Yuma County residents with symptoms.
- Northeast Colorado Health team conducts investigations on every positive case. Contact tracing is also performed with people who were in direct contact with identified positive cases.

OUTBREAK RISKS IN HIGH-VULNERABILITY SETTINGS ARE MINIMIZED

- Yuma County Jail infection and disease control protocols have been implemented with continuous monitoring and adjustment.
- Yuma County is working closely with the Northeast Colorado Health Department and local nursing homes to address policies and procedures in nursing homes.
- Yuma County is working closely with the Northeast Colorado Health Department and child care facilities
- Yuma County is working closely with the Northeast Colorado Health Department to develop guidelines for gathering places involving high-vulnerable populations.

WORKPLACE PREVENTIVE MEASURES ARE ESTABLISHED

- Guidelines addressing prevention have been written for distribution to schools, workplaces, and other essential places as outlined in this document

RISK OF IMPORTED CASES MANAGED

- Travel for residents is limited to only essential travel. Residents are encouraged to limit travel to within the county unless essential.
- A Yuma County taskforce has been established to assess the health risks of COVID-19, develop local protocol, and to monitor COVID-19 disease transmission and control, making adjustments to guidelines as necessary.
- Yuma County is involved in a weekly meeting with members representing local hospitals, local city officials, and other local representatives.
- There are protocols in place related to transporting patients to and from Yuma County hospitals

COMMUNITIES ARE FULLY ENGAGED

- Yuma County is working with Northeast Colorado Health Department and healthcare facilities to implement physical distancing guidelines
- Yuma County is working with Northeast Colorado Health Department and local businesses to implement physical distancing guidelines
- Yuma County is working with Northeast Colorado Health Department, local municipalities, community organizers and local residents on education and compliance related to physical distancing guidelines
- Yuma County is working with Northeast Colorado Health Department and local municipalities and outdoor recreation facilities to implement physical distancing guidelines

TIMELINE

- Phase I: Stay at Home—Through April 26, 2020
- Phase II: Safer at Home—begins April 27, 2020
 - Curbside retail—begins May 1, 2020
 - Office 50% open—begins May 4, 2020
- Phase III: Protect Our Neighbors—Yuma County will move to Phase III at the recommendation of the Yuma County Taskforce tentatively middle to end of May 2020.

PUBLIC HEALTH RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ALL RESIDENTS OF YUMA COUNTY

- **Maintain physical distancing (6 feet)**
- **Adults 65 years and older and high-risk populations should limit public interactions and stay at home as much as possible**
- **Use cloth face coverings for interactions where physical distancing is not possible or when entering public places**
- **People with symptoms should stay home and should not go to work**
- **Wash hands frequently with soap and water. If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.**

DETERMINING SUCCESS DURING ALL PHASES OF REOPENING

The determination on whether the social distancing policies are working will be based on: 1) the number of new cases and hospitalizations remain low, and 2) stable doubling time of cases, and 3) the Yuma County taskforce to serve as a warning system to swiftly detect an increase in community spread to prevent a breach of local hospital system capacity among our two local hospitals (Yuma District Hospital and Wray Community District Hospital). If respective numbers for either of these measures exceeds the stated limit, actions will be taken to improve social distancing practices in Yuma County. It may be necessary to reissue local Stay at Home orders. It is vital that everyone participate in this effort.

GUIDELINES FOR ALL SECTORS:

- **Perform frequent environmental cleaning and disinfection (concentrate on high touch surfaces like tables, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, desks, phones, keyboards, toilets, faucets, sinks, etc.)**
 - **Healthcare facilities**
 - **Postmortem care facilities**
 - **Laboratories**
 - **Other, non-healthcare facilities**
- **Employees and contracted workers whose duties include close contact with members of the public shall wear a non-medical cloth face covering over the nose and mouth**
- **Employees are encouraged to wear a non-medical cloth face covering over the nose and mouth while working, except where doing so would inhibit the individual's health**
- **Maintain at least six feet distance from each other**
- **Monitor workforce for compatible symptoms**
- **Implement or maintain return to work policies**
 - **Healthcare facilities**
 - **Critical infrastructure workers after exposure**

SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS BY SECTOR

Public gatherings

- **Allow public gatherings of no more than 10 people**
- **Maintain at least six feet distance from each other**
- **No festivals or other large gatherings until at time the situation will be evaluated by the Yuma County taskforce to determine when and if festivals and other types of large gatherings can resume**

- **Large venues shall remain closed (movie theaters, concert facilities, sporting event facilities, etc.)**

Offices

- **Encourage telework, wherever possible**
- **Maintain at least six feet distance from customers and each other**
- **Desks, work stations, and other work areas should be separated by at least six feet. If fixed stations exist, separate employees or clients by leaving one station in between. Workstations separated by walls that are six feet or higher can remain as they are**
- **Implement or maintain physical barriers for high-contact settings (e.g. reception areas)**
- **Implement physical distance protocols in common areas (separate tables and chairs by at least six feet)**
- **Place markings on the floor to maintain at least six feet distance in customer lines; try to establish one-way passage as much as possible**
- **Only essential travel is allowed**
- **Consider return to work in phases as applicable**
- **Implement or maintain flexible sick leave policies and practices**
- **Consider accommodations for high-risk individuals or populations**
- **Employees and contracted workers whose duties include close contact with members of the public shall wear a non-medical cloth face covering over the nose and mouth**
- **All employees are encouraged to wear a non-medical cloth face covering over the nose and mouth while working, except where doing so would inhibit the individual's health**

Retail and personal services (as applicable)

- **Critical businesses that were open under the stay at home order should maintain the same precautions and physical distancing practices**
- **As much as possible, continue curbside delivery while phasing into public opening**
- **Personal services (salons, tattoo parlors, dog grooming, etc.) and non-critical can open under the following guidelines.**
 - **Spread people out so there is at least six feet distance between individuals throughout**
 - **Limit the number of clients to 30% of the facility's fire code capacity**
 - **Separate workstations (tables, chairs, etc.) by six feet. If fixed stations exist, separate clients by leaving one station in between. Workstations separated by walls that are six feet or higher can remain as they are**
 - **Implement or continue early opening for high-risk individuals**
 - **Implement or maintain physical barriers for high-contact settings (e.g. cashiers)**
 - **Implement or maintain one-way entry/exit and aisles**
 - **Employees and contracted workers whose duties include close contact with members of the public shall wear a non-medical cloth face covering over the nose and mouth**
 - **Implement or maintain curbside services in businesses as a preferred method**
 - **Stagger shifts if feasible to decrease the number of employees at the business**
 - **Maintain at least six feet physical distancing in waiting areas**
 - **Place markings on the floor to maintain at least six feet distance in customer lines**
 - **Implement touchless payment methods when possible**
 - **Encourage the public to wear cloth face coverings to enter the businesses**

Restaurants

- **Restaurants in Yuma County may submit social distancing plans to the local governing body that comply with established protocols. Plans may be approved by local governing agencies after such time when the Yuma County taskforce determines reopening appropriate. Plans should include the following protocols:**
 - **Employee requirements,**
 - **Specific operational changes essential to the protection of public health (for employees and customers),**
 - **Customer controls and crowd prevention measures—including spacing and seating requirements, and**
 - **Other requirements or controls which allow for the accommodation of the uniqueness of individual business operations**
- **Restaurant social distancing plans will be adequately communicated, including visibly posted on site and if appropriate, posted to the business' website.**
- **Continuing take-out and delivery is highly encouraged**
- **As much as possible, continue curbside delivery while phasing into public opening**
- **Spread people/tables out so there is at least six feet distance between each table or individual patron/patron group, as applicable, throughout**
- **Limit the number of clients to 30% of your fire code capacity**
- **Place markings on the floor to maintain at least six feet distance in customer lines**
- **Implement touchless payment methods when possible**
- **Implement or maintain physical barriers for high-contact settings (e.g. cashiers)**
- **Stagger shifts if feasible to decrease employee numbers at the business**
- **In-room dining shall follow strict physical distancing**
- **Group parties should be limited to no more than ten people. People within a party should be family members or acquaintances who have previously been in contact with each other and there is limited risk of disease transmission**
- **Don't allow public sharing of utensils or condiments**
- **Buffets shall have an employee serving the food, no self-serving allowed**
- **Self-serving stations shall remain closed (drinking stations, bulk dry, etc.)**
- **Maintain physical distancing (six feet) in waiting areas**
- **Employees and contracted workers whose duties include close contact with members of the public shall wear a non-medical cloth face covering over the nose and mouth**
- **Encourage the public to wear cloth face coverings to enter the businesses**

Elective, Medical and Health Services

- **Visitation to hospitals and senior living facilities is prohibited at this time**
- **Elective surgeries can resume**
- **Elective health services can reopen with while adhering to the following precautions**
 - **Use adequate PPE that protects the provider and the client**
 - **Implement one-way entry/exit and aisles**
 - **Use an appointment system to minimize the time in waiting rooms**
 - **Maintain physical distancing (six feet) in waiting rooms**
 - **Implement or maintain physical barriers for high-contact settings (e.g. front desk)**

- Encourage the public to wear cloth face coverings to enter the businesses
- Employees and contracted workers (other than providers) whose duties include close contact with members of the public shall wear a non-medical cloth face covering over the nose and mouth

Parks/Recreation/Community Services

- Maintain physical distancing in outdoor settings (6ft while hiking, 15ft while running or biking)
- Open outdoor recreation facilities where adequate controls can be implemented to ensure physical distancing (six feet)
- Limit public gatherings to no more than 10 people
- Camping should be limited to one family per campsite
- No group camping allowed, in individual campsites or group campsites
- Playground equipment shall remain closed
- Perform frequent cleaning and disinfection of bathrooms and high-touch surfaces
- Only essential travel allowed; avoid traveling outside of your county or local community for recreation
- Recreational activities involving more than 10 people in Yuma County may submit social distancing plans to the local governing body that comply with established protocols. Plans may be approved by local governing agencies after such time when the Yuma County taskforce determines reopening appropriate
 - Employee requirements,
 - Specific operational changes essential to the protection of public health (for employees and customers),
 - Customer controls and crowd prevention measures—including spacing and seating requirements, and
 - Other requirements or controls which allow for the accommodation of the uniqueness of individual business operations
- Libraries in Yuma County may submit social distancing plans to the local governing body that comply with established protocols. Plans may be approved by local governing agencies after such time when the Yuma County taskforce determines reopening appropriate
 - Plans should include acceptable protocols in accordance with State Library guideline for processing material.
 - Employee requirements,
 - Specific operational changes essential to the protection of public health (for employees and customers),
 - Customer controls and crowd prevention measures—including spacing and seating requirements, and
 - Other requirements or controls which allow for the accommodation of the uniqueness of individual business operations
- Museums in Yuma County may submit social distancing plans to the local governing body that comply with established protocols. Plans may be approved by local governing agencies after such time when the Yuma County taskforce determines reopening appropriate
 - Plans should include acceptable protocols in accordance with State Library guideline for processing material.

- Employee requirements,
- Specific operational changes essential to the protection of public health (for employees and customers),
- Customer controls and crowd prevention measures—including spacing and seating requirements, and
- Other requirements or controls which allow for the accommodation of the uniqueness of individual business operations

Education

- All educational facilities located within Yuma County will adhere to the State of Colorado COVID-19 guidance.

Real Estate

- In-person home showings can resume
- Maintain at least six feet distance from customers and each other
- Cloth face coverings are highly encouraged
- Prior to a showing, ensure clients are not experiencing respiratory symptoms
- Open houses are prohibited at this time

Places of worship

- Continue online or drive-by services as much as possible
- Can offer on-site services IF the following physical distancing and cleaning practices are possible:
 - Limit the number of participants to 30% of your fire code capacity
 - Operate with strict physical distancing practices
 - Spread people out so there is at least six feet distance between families throughout
 - Place markings on the floor to maintain at least six feet distance where lines form
 - Implement or maintain one-way entry/exit and aisles
 - Implement touchless offering options as much as possible
 - Encourage employees and the public to wear cloth face coverings
 - Discourage people from attending if they are experiencing any symptoms
 - Discourage high-risk populations from attending on site-services
 - Perform frequent cleaning and disinfection of bathrooms and high-touch surfaces

Gyms

- Can operate IF the following physical distancing and cleaning practices are possible
 - Limit the number of clients to 30% of your fire code capacity
 - Spread people out so there is at least six feet distance between individuals throughout
 - Implement early opening for high-risk individuals
 - Social distancing plans will be developed to comply with established protocols. Plans will be adequately communicated, including visibly posted on site and if appropriate, posted to the business' website.
 - Group classes are not allowed

- **Saunas, pools (indoor and outdoor) and shared spaces should remain closed**
- **Saunas, pools (indoor and outdoor) in Yuma County may submit social distancing plans to the local governing body that comply with established protocols. Plans may be approved by local governing agencies after such time when the Yuma County taskforce determines reopening appropriate. Plans should include the following protocols:**
 - **Employee requirements,**
 - **Specific operational changes essential to the protection of public health (for employees and customers),**
 - **Customer controls and crowd prevention measures—including spacing and seating requirements, and**
 - **Other requirements or controls which allow for the accommodation of the uniqueness of individual business operations**

