



COLORADO
Department of Public
Health & Environment

June 10, 2020

Keith Montag via kmontag@clearcreekcounty.us
405 Argentine St
P.O. Box 2000
Georgetown, CO 80444

Charlotte Hampson, Deputy Director
Clear Creek County Public and Environmental Health

RE: Clear Creek County Variance Request from portions of **Public Health Order 20-28**

Dear Mr. Montag and Director Hampson:

Thank you for your application to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) of a variance request to portions of **Public Health Order 20-28 Safer at Home**, as amended. We reached out to Park County Public Health after the issuance of the Fifth Amended Public Health Order 20-28 to inquire if you still wished to pursue any portion of the variance application, and received confirmation that you would still request consideration of the guides and outfitters as relates to mine and mill tours and panning lessons. I have had an opportunity to review your request for variances regarding community centers, and I have determined that the request is approved, with some amendments, as explained further below.

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. Your application addresses particular requirements that you propose as an alternative to the Safer at Home model for each of these areas. The data and information included in your request demonstrates that Clear Creek County has reported 17 COVID-19 cases with 0 cases in the last two weeks, putting Clear Creek County in the "low" variance category - see [here](#) for more information. Your application demonstrates testing services are available, and Clear Creek County has a goal to test 10% (970) of residents by mid-June. While there are no hospitals in Clear Creek County, you have received support from St. Anthony Hospital in Lakewood for your variance application.

With respect to your request for a variance for mine and mill tours and panning lessons, in addition to the requirements outlined in your application, the following additional requirements must be met:

- Only one group of 10 will be in the mine at any time. When tours include multiple households, 6 feet of distance between each group must be maintained inside the mine

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and mill, as well as during the panning lessons. For individuals, need to ensure a minimum 28 square feet per person.

This variance approval is granted based on the facts and circumstances today as you have described them in your request, and is subject to adjustment if conditions worsen as described [here](#). If the County observes more than 3 non-epi linked cases in a two week period, notify CDPHE and then implement a mitigation plan for 2 weeks to try and restore virus transmission levels to the baseline under which the variance was approved. If after 2 weeks the levels are not restored, then the capacity limits are automatically adjusted to the maximum of the new level (low goes to medium, medium goes to high). If the county started at the "high" level for the variance, and after the 2 weeks of mitigation the baseline has not been restored, then the variance is 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 of June 30, 2020.

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