



COLORADO
Department of Public
Health & Environment

June 18, 2020

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

Tara Hardy, Director
Silver Thread Public Health District

RE: Hinsdale County Variance Request from portions of **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 **Public Health Order 20-28 Safer at Home**, as amended. I have had an opportunity to review your requests for variances for group gatherings and movie and performance theaters, and I have determined that they are approved.

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 Hinsdale County has reported 3 COVID-19 cases to date with 0 cases in the last two weeks, putting Hinsdale County in the “low” variance category - see [here](#) for more information. 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.

Your variance application requests group gatherings of up to 50 people, maintaining 6 feet distancing between individuals or groups and requiring multiple groups to be separated by a minimum of 20 feet. Additionally the application asks to open movie and performance theaters at 50% occupancy not to exceed 50 people, with additional alternate requirements for seating arrangements, distancing, cleaning and disinfection, and other disease prevention measures. These requests are approved.

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 2 or more non-epi linked cases in a two week period, notify

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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 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