



COLORADO
Department of Public
Health & Environment

June 14, 2020

Ray Beckman, Chair
Don Cook, Commissioner
Donald Broom, Commissioner
Moffat County Board of County Commissioners
221 West Victory Way, Suite 130
Craig, CO 81625

Kari Ladrow, Director
Moffat County Public Health

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

Dear Commissioners and Ms. Ladrow:

Thank you for your application to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) requesting a variance to portions of **Public Health Order 20-28 Safer at Home**. I have had an opportunity to review your request for variance concerning public gatherings, events, and youth recreation. This variance approval is limited to the sectors discussed below; in all other respects, the requirements of the Safer at Home Executive Order, as amended, remain in effect for Moffat County, with the exception of the areas for which Moffat County has already received a variance.

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 COVID-19 Suppression Plan 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 Moffat County has had 1 COVID-19 cases in the last two weeks for a two week cumulative incidence of 8 per 100,000 (low level as described [here](#)), and has a disease prevention and response system that includes testing and active monitoring of for all cases and their contacts. Moffat County also has the support of its local hospitals for this variance request.

Your variance application asks for an increase in the permitted sizes for public gatherings and events of 100 participants outdoors and 50 participants indoor. This request is approved, with the additional requirements as set forth below:

- In order to achieve 6 ft social distancing, the limit is 50% of the posted occupancy code limit ensuring a minimum 28 square feet per person not to exceed more than 100 people at any given time in a confined indoor space, and 175 people in any outdoor setting.

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Note that this is the maximum size for both indoor and outdoor settings, and the county may choose to authorize openings of smaller sizes as outlined in the variance application.

- The above-referenced upper limits apply to your request for youth recreational participants.

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 4 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 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 Moffat County residents are safe and healthy as we deal with this global pandemic. Moffat 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,



Jill Hunsaker Ryan, MPH
Executive Director