



COLORADO
Department of Public
Health & Environment

July 1, 2020

Mike Brazell, Commissioner
Dick Elsner, Commissioner
Ray Douglas, Commissioner
Park County Board of Commissioners
856 Castello Avenue,
Fairplay, CO 80440

Lynn Ramey
Park County Public Health
PO Box 846
825 Clark St.,
Fairplay, CO 80440

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

Dear Commissioners and Director Ramey:

Thank you for your second 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 indoor events, outdoor events, and life rites and consider the information provided. 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 Park County has reported 27 COVID-19 cases to date with 4 cases in the last two weeks, putting Park County in the "low" variance category - see [here](#) for more information.

Based on the low disease prevalence in Park County as assessed in this variance review, the following standard is applied: for all indoor and outdoor spaces, in order to achieve 6 feet distancing, the limit is 50% of the posted occupancy code ensuring a minimum 28 square feet per person not to exceed more than 175 people gathered in a confined indoor space at any given time, and not to exceed 250 in an outdoor space.

Your variance application requests variances in the sector of indoor events, outdoor events, and life rites, as follows:

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- Allow 175 people indoors and 250 outdoors for:
 - Park County Fair and other community events
 - Receptions, events, and life rites
- Allow libraries to operate at 50% capacity not to exceed to 175 people, consistent with Appendix A of PHO 20-28

Since the filing of your variance request, the Seventh Amended PHO 20-28 has been issued, which addresses some of the requests that you have made. In particular, fairs, festivals, and other indoor or outdoor events (including receptions) not otherwise covered by PHO 20-28 are addressed, with outdoor venues allowed up to 175 people within the usable space and indoor venues may allow up to 100 people within the usable space. Your variance request for the Park County Fair, other community events, life rites, and receptions of up to 175 people indoors and 250 people outdoors is approved.

Regarding libraries, they may open under the current PHO as indoor events for 100 people in a confined space using the [Social Distancing Space Calculator](#). With this approved variance, libraries may open at 50% occupancy with 175 people, with 6 feet distancing in all settings.

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 7 or more 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. This standard for variance review applies to all variances currently in effect in Park County. 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 Park County residents are safe and healthy as we deal with this global pandemic. Park 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