**Background**

Gilpin County has experienced LOW risk of COVID19 transmission since March 5, 2020. As of 8/20/20, total case counts for the entire county have not exceeded 17, with 1 hospitalization, and no deaths. Gilpin County Public Health, Gilpin County Commissioners and the Gilpin County Office of Emergency Management (OEM) have worked in partnership to establish local health ordinances for social distancing and masks to be worn in/on all County facilities/properties and have adopted the Governor’s Executive Order D 2020 138 requiring masks in Public Indoor Spaces or when using public transit, subject to limited exceptions, and recommending masks elsewhere where social distancing cannot be maintained. This is to continue in the Protect Our Neighbors phase.

Gilpin County is requesting allowance of **critical retail businesses** to operate at 50% capacity with activities not to exceed 500 people in a given location. Social distancing and mask ordinances will still be in effect, with strong encouragement paid to individuals deemed at-risk/vulnerable to avoid such areas. Each business is responsible for monitoring patronage of these individuals, with appropriate signage, screening and warnings deterring vulnerable populations from participating in public activities. Oversight of compliance falls to Gilpin County Public Health with support from the Gilpin County Commissioners and OEM.

The county is requesting, under Protect Our Neighbors, that each casino be treated as a separate and individual entity for purposes of managing COVID rather than grouping all casinos as aggregate. Any outbreak of 2 or more cases at a casino will be treated individually, where Gilpin County Public Health, Commissioners and OEM will mitigate action plans to curb any further risk to the community.

The following 8 metrics are required for approval for the Protect Our Neighbors phase.

**Metrics 1 & 2 Treatment**

*Metric 1: Sufficient hospital bed capacity*

There are no physical hospital system locations in Gilpin County. Rather, the county utilizes the services of hospitals in Jefferson County:

* St. Anthony Hospital, 11600 W 2nd Pl, Lakewood, CO 80228

Using Jefferson County’s hospitals Gilpin has 142 1CU beds with the potential to expand within the facilities as needed with 75 critical and noncritical ventilators.

Data from the August 16, 2020 North Central Region (NCR) Hospital Report shows that:

* ICU availability: 28%
* Critical pharmaceutical shortages: None reported
* PPE shortages/needs: No critical shortages reported
* Anticipated med/surgical bed shortages: None reported.

Warning: should a surge in case counts begin to affect Boulder and Jefferson Counties, in which hospital beds are not as readily available, Gilpin County will closely monitor the case counts within its own region. Should the situation warrant, Gilpin County will take protective measures to pull back exposure risk, possibly to the levels seen at the beginning of the pandemic (limiting tourism, business closure, etc.).

*Metric 2: Sufficient PPE* *Supply*

Gilpin County Public Health and Office of Emergency Management has been working with our neighboring Counties and State EOC to ensure that PPE is allocated and stocked to support Gilpin County for a minimum of two weeks with no back fill.

Warning Indicator: should PPE fall below a two-week supply, and resources are unavailable to be stocked within a few days, Gilpin County Public Health and OEM will source other materials, either from FEMA support or private supplier.

**Metrics 3 & 4 Transmission**

*Metric 3: Stable or declining COVID-19 hospitalizations*

Gilpin County has had only one case hospitalized since March 2020.

*Metric 4: Fewer new cases*

As of 10am on August 26, 2020:

* + Per CDPHE case data and based on established case definitions, there have been 17 confirmed and probable cases in Gilpin County.
	+ Gilpin County’s population is roughly 6000 residents; 17 cases represents a .003 community transmission rate
	+ Hospitalizations: 1 total hospitalization with 1 discharged as of August 20, 2020.
	+ The number of new hospitalizations (by date of hospitalization) has remained at zero. Overall, the numbers hospitalized have remained at zero for multiple weeks in Gilpin County.

Warning Indicator: case counts surges would indicate increased community transmission in Gilpin County. Should the county experience a surge in cases, Public Health would work with the Commissioners and OEM to determine next best course of action, up to and including moving from Protect Our Neighbors to a lower-risk phase quarantine.

**Metrics 5-8 Test and Trace**

*Metric 5: Sufficient testing capacity*

Currently, Gilpin County Public Health, in collaboration with Gilpin Ambulance Authority, offers testing every Tuesday for symptomatic residents, first responders, health care workers and those who have had close contact with someone positive for COVID19. Current demand is an average of 10 per week. If demand increases the frequency of testing will also increase.

*Metric 6: Ability to implement case investigation and contact tracing protocol*

Currently 2 staff members of GCPH conduct all case investigations and contact tracing for all cases. All case investigations are completed within 24 hours. Contact tracing is performed with people who were in direct contact with identified positive cases.

*Metric 7: Documented surge-capacity plan for case investigation and contact tracing*

The GCPH has a team of contact tracers consisting of 6 case investigators that perform and complete case investigations in 24 hours. With the cooperative support of with JCPH Epidemiology Branch consists of 33 staff who conduct case investigations and contact tracing on every positive case. Gilpin County has also opted in to Tier 2 with CDPHE should the need arise for additional support.

*Metric 8: Documented strategies to offer testing to close contacts*

GCPH and OEM have developed a testing plan to be activated in the event of an outbreak in addition to the weekly test site (attached).