



COLORADO
Department of Public
Health & Environment

May 20, 2020

Emma Davis
Public Health Director
Fremont County Department of Public Health
and Environment
201 N. 6th Street
Canon City, CO 81212

RE: Fremont County Variance Request from portions of **Executive Order D 20 044** and
Public Health Order 20-28

Dear Ms. Davis:

Thank you for your application to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) requesting a variance to portions of **Executive Order D 20 044 Safer at Home** and **Public Health Order 20-28 Safer at Home**. I have had an opportunity to review your request and consider the information provided, and determine that the request is approved, with some amendments, as explained further below. This variance approval is limited to the five functions for which you requested a variance; in all other respects, the requirements of the Safer at Home Executive Order and Public Health Order remain in effect for Fremont County.

You asked for a variance related to five specific functions, including Restaurants, Fitness Facilities, Places of Worship, Recreation and Outfitters. Your letter 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 Fremont has reported 22 COVID-19 cases as of May 6, 2020, with no new cases since April 25, 2020, and sufficient hospital capacity to care for COVID-19 positive patients.

We reached out to you for clarity concerning Fremont's thresholds for rescinding the alternate restrictions proposed in the variance, we agree with the trigger of 25 cases more occurring in a week would exceed your current resources Fremont County would not be able to timely keep up with response activities and complete contact tracing to respond to outbreaks.

With respect to the five areas that you requested receive a variance, each is authorized with the amendments described below to the COVID-19 Suppression Plan.

In all settings, the following requirements must be met:

- Customers or patrons should be asked about symptoms before entering or participating in the activity, and service or participation should be declined if they are symptomatic.

Fremont County Variance
May 20, 2020

- Employees must be screened for symptoms each day before beginning work, and those who are symptomatic must be excluded from the place of worship and required to remain in isolation for 10 days, per CDC guidance.

For Restaurants, the following additional requirements apply:

- Recommend that the sign posted at the door is the CDC sign (also available in Spanish) <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/316129-B-StayHomeFromWorkPoster.pdf>

For Fitness Facilities, the following additional requirements apply:

- Given the many unknowns regarding how the SARS CoV-2 virus responsible for COVID-19 is spread, use of equipment in the gym must be limited to no closer than every other machine so that participants are not exercising right next to each other and smaller exercise rooms with poor ventilation should be discouraged from use.
- No equipment may be shared between customers unless they are household contacts.

For Places of Worship, the following additional restrictions apply:

- Require cleaning and disinfection after any use of the worship space.

For Recreation, with respect to camping, Governor Polis authorized camping effective May 12, 2020. Your proposal allowing campgrounds to open at 50% capacity, with no shared facilities other than restrooms that must be cleaned every 2 hours is reasonable. The following additional requirement applies to Recreation:

- Prior to opening, outdoor recreation facilities shall submit a plan for reopening demonstrating how they will implement social distancing and other best practice disease control measures to the Fremont County Health Department for review and approval.

For Outfitters, we understand that you have rescinded your request for a variance regarding railroad services. All other proposed restrictions for the remaining Outfitters, which include rafting companies, helicopter tours, skydiving, zipline and Jeep tours are approved.

This variance approval is granted based on the facts and circumstances today as you have described them in your request. If the County's threshold of 25 or more cases requiring investigation in a week occurs, then this variance is automatically 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 currently is set to expire on May 26, 2020 but may be extended.

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

Fremont County Variance
May 20, 2020

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jill Hunsaker Ryan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "J".

Jill Hunsaker Ryan, MPH
Executive Director

Attachment A: Restaurants

Restaurants are encouraged to continue to do business through take-out, delivery and curbside pickup. If restaurants so choose, they can provide limited dine-in service. Restaurants must take the necessary time to ensure each of the following is adequately addressed before opening to the public.

- Customers or patrons should be asked about symptoms before entering or participating in the activity, and service or participation should be declined if they are symptomatic.
- Operators are recommended to have the CDC sign posted at the door https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/316129-B-StayHomeFromWork_Poster.pdf
- Limit number of customers to 30% of normal seating capacity.
- Do not allow customers to wait in the lobby area or lines outside of the door. Implement a reservation system, notify customers via text/call when their table is ready.
- Provide handwashing stations or sanitizer for all customers.
- Post signs at entrances regarding face coverings, and post signs throughout the facility as needed to remind customers of social distancing and proper hygiene.
- Require customers to wear cloth face coverings in order to enter the business and keep them in place until they have reached their table.
- Make reasonable accommodations for vulnerable populations who are still under the Stay at Home advisement. (e.g. seating assistance, special hours)
- Ask customers if they are experiencing any symptoms prior to seating them in the dining area, and do not allow them to enter if they are.
- Group parties shall be limited to six members of a single household.
- Bars are to remain closed, including those that are part of a restaurant.
- Implement one-way entry/exit and directional walkways as much as possible.
- In-room dining shall follow strict physical distancing practices (6 feet). Tables shall be spaced at a distance that allows for customers to remain at a 6-foot distance.
- Self-service stations shall remain closed (drinking stations, bulk dry, etc.)
- Don't allow public sharing of utensils or condiment containers.
- Buffets shall have an employee serving the food, no self-service is to be allowed.
- Perform environmental cleaning and disinfection of bathrooms and high touch surfaces every 2 hours and maintain a cleaning log.
- Staff handling dirty dishes must wear gloves and an apron.
- Staff must wash and/or sanitize their hands between each customer.
- Monitor employees for one of the following symptoms:
 - Cough
 - Shortness of breath/difficulty breathingOr two or more of the following symptoms:
 - Fever
 - Chills
 - Repeated shaking with Chills
 - Muscle Pain
 - Headache

Sore throat

New loss of taste or smell

Symptomatic employees MUST be excluded from the workplace

- Employees and contracted workers shall be required to wear a non-medical cloth face covering over the nose and mouth. Individuals who cannot wear a mask shall not be permitted to work at this time.
- Implement or maintain physical barriers for high-contact settings (e.g. Cashiers)
- Implement touchless payment methods where possible.
- Stagger shifts if feasible to decrease employee numbers at the business.

Attachment B: Places of Worship

Places of worship are encouraged to continue offering online or drive-up services as much as possible. For activities within a facility, places of worship shall be allowed to increase the number of participants, if they choose, as outlined in the following guidelines:

- Customers or patrons should be asked about symptoms before entering or participating in the activity, and service or participation should be declined if they are symptomatic.
 - Limit the number of guests to no more than 30% seating occupancy, provided that there's at least 6 feet of distance between individuals or between groups of a single household.
 - Guests shall not be permitted to wait in the lobby area or in lines outside the door. No mingling time before, during or after services.
 - Cleaning and disinfection after any use of the worship space must occur.
 - Mask shall be required by all guests, when at all possible.
 - Post signs at entrances regarding face coverings, and post signs throughout the facility as needed to remind guests of social distancing and proper hygiene.
 - Make reasonable accommodations for vulnerable populations who are still under the Stay at Home advisement. (e.g. online viewing, visits to their home). Discourage any such individual from traveling to and/or entering the facility.
 - Do not allow anyone to attend any event/activity in person if they are experiencing symptoms of any illness.
 - Implement one-way entry/exit and directional walkways as much as possible.
 - Place markings on the floor to maintain at least a six-foot distance where a line may form.
 - Spread people out to maintain a six-foot distance between individuals/groups of a single household.
 - Implement touchless offering and communion options as much as possible (e.g. do not pass around the offering plate, make available individual offerings that can be picked up by individuals to limit touching, pre-packaged and/or grab-and-go).
 - Perform environmental cleaning and disinfection of bathrooms and high touch surfaces every 2 hours and maintain a cleaning log.
 - No self-service refreshments.
 - Provide handwashing and/or sanitizer.
 - Monitor employees and volunteers for one of the following symptoms:
 - Cough
 - Shortness of breath/difficulty breathingOr two or more of the following symptoms:
 - Fever
 - Chills
 - Repeated shaking with Chills
 - Muscle Pain
 - Headache
 - Sore throat
 - New loss of taste or smell
- Symptomatic employees MUST be excluded from the workplace**

- Employees and volunteers shall be required to wear a non-medical cloth face covering over the nose and mouth, individuals that cannot wear a mask shall not be permitted to work at this time.

Attachment C: Fitness Facilities

Gyms, health clubs, and other similar fitness facilities shall be able to open their facilities for limited use. Fitness facilities that choose to open under limited use must do so under the following guidelines:

- Customers or patrons should be asked about symptoms before entering or participating in the activity, and service or participation should be declined if they are symptomatic.
 - Limit the number of customers to 30% of fire/building capacity.
 - Do not allow members to wait in lobby or in lines outside of the doors.
 - Members must wear a face covering while using the facility, when physically possible.
 - Post signs at entrances regarding face coverings, and post signs throughout the facility as needed to remind guests of social distancing and proper hygiene.
 - Make reasonable accommodations for vulnerable populations who are still under the Safer at Home advisement. (e.g. assistance with equipment cleaning, special hours).
 - All members and staff must practice good hand hygiene, either hand washing or sanitizer.
 - Members experiencing symptoms of any illness **MUST** exclude themselves from using the facility.
 - Use of equipment in the gym must be limited to no closer than every other machine so that participants are not exercising right next to each other and smaller exercise rooms with poor ventilation should be discouraged from use.
 - Implement one-way entry/exit and directional walkways as much as possible.
 - Spread people out so that there is at least a 10-foot social distance between individuals throughout the facility.
 - Sharing of equipment must be prohibited unless they are household contacts.
 - An employee must be required to disinfect equipment after every use.
 - Perform environmental cleaning and disinfection of bathrooms and high touch surfaces every 2 hours and maintain a cleaning log.
 - Monitor employees for one of the following symptoms:
 - Cough
 - Shortness of breath/difficulty breathingOr two or more of the following symptoms:
 - Fever
 - Chills
 - Repeated shaking with Chills
 - Muscle Pain
 - Headache
 - Sore throat
 - New loss of taste or smell
- Symptomatic employees MUST be excluded from the workplace**
- Employees shall be required to wear a non-medical cloth face covering over the nose and mouth and any person that cannot wear a mask shall not be permitted to work at this time.
 - Personal training is allowed while strictly adhering to social distancing guidelines and limited to 4 people, plus the instructor.
 - Group classes are not allowed

- Sport courts are to remain closed
- Locker rooms must remain closed
- Saunas, pools (indoor and outdoor) and shared spaces must remain closed
- On-site childcare facilities must remain closed

Attachment D: Recreation

Local recreational facilities can be open to the public under the following guidelines. Fremont County or any municipality can enact stricter orders as seen fit.

- Customers or patrons should be asked about symptoms before entering or participating in the activity, and service or participation should be declined if they are symptomatic.
 - Prior to opening, outdoor recreation facilities shall submit a plan for reopening demonstrating how they will implement social distancing and other best practice disease control measures to the Fremont County Health Department for review and approval.
 - Group gatherings must be kept to 10 people or less.
 - Park facilities conducive to gathering, including shelters, picnic areas, and playgrounds are to remain closed.
 - Swim beaches, swimming pools and Splash pads are to remain closed.
 - League or pick-up sports are prohibited at this time.
 - Spaces that enable social distancing such as trails, green space, tennis courts and golf course may be open for use.
 - Golfers must maintain physical distance of 6 feet at all times.
 - Motorized golf carts shall contain no more than one person, although members of the same household may ride together in the same cart.
 - Golfers shall avoid sharing clubs and golf balls.
 - Golf carts and rented/borrowed equipment must be cleaned between uses.
 - Physical distancing should be maintained in outdoor settings (6 feet while hiking, 15 feet while running or biking)
 - Outdoor recreation facilities may remain open when adequate controls are able to be implemented to ensure 6-foot social distancing.
 - Monitor employees and volunteers for one of the following symptoms:
 - Cough
 - Shortness of breath/difficulty breathing
 - Or two or more of the following symptoms:
 - Fever
 - Chills
 - Repeated shaking with Chills
 - Muscle Pain
 - Headache
 - Sore throat
 - New loss of taste or smell
- Symptomatic employees MUST be excluded from the workplace**
- Employees shall be required to wear a non-medical cloth face covering over the nose and mouth, individuals that cannot wear a mask shall not be permitted to work at this time.
 - Perform environmental cleaning and disinfection of bathrooms and high touch surfaces every 2 hours and maintain a cleaning log.
 - Privately owned camp grounds and RV parks may be open for use if they can strictly adhere to social distancing guidelines and maintain a 6-foot distance. They can operate at a 50% capacity, leaving every other camp site open to allow for proper distancing. Groups must be limited to

members of the same household. All shared facilities must remain closed with the exception of bathrooms which must be cleaned every 2 hours and have a maintained cleaning log. Camp grounds/RV parks shall also follow other recreation guidelines listed above.

Attachment E: Outfitters

Local outfitters to include Rafting companies, Helicopter tours, Skydiving, Zipline and Jeep tours may be open under strict adherence to the following criteria.

- Customers or patrons should be asked about symptoms before entering or participating in the activity, and service or participation should be declined if they are symptomatic.
 - Social distancing of 6 feet must be adhered to.
 - Any and all equipment must be cleaned and disinfected between uses.
 - Group reservations should be kept to groups of the same household.
 - No contact check-in and payment should be made available as much as possible.
 - Do not allow customers to wait in lobby or in lines outside of the doors.
 - Make digital waivers available if possible, to limit contact.
 - Customers shall be required to wear face coverings, where possible.
 - Post signs at entrances regarding face coverings, and post signs throughout the facility as needed to remind guests of social distancing and proper hygiene.
 - Must keep occupancy of the building at or below 30% of the fire/building code as long as social distancing can be followed.
 - Busses for raft trips must be limited to 30% of the passenger capacity.
 - Jeep tours, skydiving and zip line groups must be limited only to members of the same household.
 - Rafting trips shall allow for trips of 4 or fewer individuals of a mixed group or single households (not including the raft guide).
 - All equipment such as helmets, life jackets, and safety harnesses as well as any other shared equipment must be cleaned in a sanitizing solution after each use and allowed to air dry before reuse.
 - Seats, handrails and other frequently touched surfaces must be cleaned between groups.
 - Include additional check in times to reduce the number of guests arriving at one time.
 - Perform environmental cleaning and disinfection of bathrooms and high touch surfaces every two hours and maintain a cleaning log.
 - Monitor employees at the beginning of each shift for one of the following symptoms:
 - Cough
 - Shortness of breath/difficulty breathing
 - Or two or more of the following symptoms:
 - Fever
 - Chills
 - Repeated shaking with Chills
 - Muscle Pain
 - Headache
 - Sore throat
 - New loss of taste or smell
- Symptomatic employees MUST be excluded from the workplace**

Employees shall be required to wear a non-medical cloth face covering over the nose and mouth, individuals that cannot wear a mask shall not be permitted to work at this time.