



# Delta County

COLORADO

## Board of Public Health

**PUBLIC HEALTH ORDER DCHD2020-01**  
**SAFER AT HOME DELTA COUNTY**  
**MAY 22, 2020**

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### **PURPOSE**

This Public Health Order is being issued to continue to limit the health impacts of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). This Order implements measures to allow limited reopening of certain industries and businesses in Delta County while maintaining sustainable levels of social distancing. This Order continues social distancing requirements of all residents and Stay at Home advisements for vulnerable population pursuant to Executive Order D 2020 017. This Order is effective within the entirety of Delta County, including all cities and towns within the County.

### **BACKGROUND**

The Governor of Colorado issued several Executive Orders to address the current COVID-19 pandemic since March 11, 2020, including an Executive Order declaring a disaster emergency due to the presence of COVID 19 in Colorado.

On March 25, 2020, the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment (CDPHE) issued Public Health Order 20-24 based on the Governor's Executive Order D 2020 017. On April 1, 2020, CDPHE updated Public Health Order 20-24 adding clarification to the essential services and social distancing definitions of the Stay at Home requirements.

On April 27, 2020 CDPHE issued a Safer at Home Public Health Order 20-28 based on the Governor's Executive Order D 2020 044 allowing many Coloradans to return to work while maintaining a sustainable level of social distancing. On May 14, 2020, CDPHE updated Public Health Order 20-28 adding clarification to houses of worship that the 10 person gathering limit is applied per room of the Stay at Home requirements.

On May 22, 2020 the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment approved a Delta County variance to portions (See Attachments A, B,C) of Executive Order D 2020 044 and Public Health Order 20-28 (See Attachment D, Approved Variance from CDPHE). If any of Delta County's triggers of a greater than 10% positivity rate, more than 4 ICU hospitalizations at a given time, or 6 new cases per day for 3 days occurs, then the CDPHE variance is automatically rescinded.

Since requesting a variance from CDPHE on May 11th, Delta County has performed 185 tests and during this time, no (0) new positive cases have been confirmed in Delta County. Since May 1<sup>st</sup> over the course of 20 days, Delta County has only added 13 total cases, which occurred in the first 10 days and in the past ten days, we have received no new positives while testing has increased by 393 tests. During this time, Delta County Memorial Hospital has not had any COVID-19 positive patients admitted to the hospital and only one patient, suspected of having COVID-19 was transferred to St. Mary's Hospital in Grand Junction. The hospital has tested 646 individuals, 263 of which have been surgery patients and as of May 21<sup>st</sup>, the hospital has 164 ABBOTT ID Now Rapid COVID Tests to further augment their inventory of CDPHE and Mayo clinic tests.

The Safer at Home Delta County plan is approved by the Delta County Board of Health, Delta County Board of County Commissioners, and is fully supported by Delta County Memorial Hospital.

### **LEGAL AUTHORITY**

This Order is adopted pursuant to the legal authority set forth in sections 25-1-506, 25-1-508, and 25-1-509, Colorado Revised Statutes as well as other applicable laws, rules, regulations, orders and declarations. Under this authority, the Delta County Public Health Director has the duty to investigate and control the causes of the epidemic or communicable diseases and conditions affecting public health; to establish, maintain, and enforce isolation and quarantine; to exercise physical control over the property and over the persons of the people within the territorial limits of Delta County; and to prohibit the gatherings of people to protect the public health; all as the Public Health Director may find necessary for the protection of the public health. Immediate issuance of this Order is deemed reasonable and necessary under the existing circumstances and necessary for the preservation of the public health, safety and welfare.

**PUBLIC HEALTH ORDER DCHD2020-01 IS EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY.**

This Order is complementary to CDPHE Public Health Order 20-28 and, therefore, should not be relied upon solely. This order only modifies those parts of the CDPHE Public Health Order 20-28 that are addressed in the approved Delta County Variance. Any conflicting provision of this Public Health Order DCHD2020-01 and the CDPHE Public Health Order 20-28 shall be resolved favoring that which is less restrictive (i.e., allowing more openness and usage).

An easy-to-follow listing of the details for both the Colorado and Delta County “Safer at Home” orders can be found at <http://www.deltacounty.com/COVID-19>

### **GENERAL GUIDANCE**

Best Practices for Delta County Residents:

- Maintain physical distancing (six feet (6 ft.) spacing)
- Adults 65 years and older, and high-risk populations, shall limit public interactions and stay at home as much as possible
- Use cloth face coverings for interactions where physical distancing of 6 ft. is not possible or when entering public places
- Stay home and not go to work or out in the public if experiencing symptoms
- Wash hands frequently with soap and water. If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least sixty percent (60%) alcohol
- Clean and disinfect all non-porous, high-touch surfaces frequently

Guidance and Requirements for Delta County Businesses:

- Perform frequent environmental cleaning and disinfection (concentrate on high touch surfaces like tables, door knobs, light switches, countertops, handles, desks, phones, keyboards, toilets, faucets, sink, etc.)
  - [Healthcare facilities](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/infection-control-recommendations.html)  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/infection-control-recommendations.html>
  - [Postmortem care facilities](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-postmortem-specimens.html)  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-postmortem-specimens.html>
  - [Laboratories](#)

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/lab/lab-biosafety-guidelines.html>

○ Other, non-healthcare facilities

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/disinfecting-building-facility.html>

- Arrange spaces so that everyone can maintain at least six feet (6 ft.) distance from each other
- Make reasonable work accommodations for vulnerable populations who are still under the Stay at Home advisement.
- Monitor employees for one of the following symptoms:
  - Cough
  - Shortness of breath and/or difficulty breathing

Or at least two of the following symptoms:

- Fever
- Chills
- Repeated shaking with chills
- Muscle pain
- Headache
- Sore throat
- New loss of taste or smell

Symptomatic personnel must be excluded from the workplace

- Personnel whose duties include close contact with members of the public shall wear a non-medical cloth face covering over the nose and mouth
- All other employees are encouraged to wear a non-medical cloth covering over the nose and mouth while working, except where doing so would compromise the individual's health
- In some instances, cloth face masks are required for the public to enter a facility. All businesses have the option to require anyone entering the facility to wear a cloth face covering, if not specifically required per Public Health Order, if they so choose.
- Implement or maintain return to work policies
  - Healthcare facilities
  - Critical infrastructure workers after exposure
- The following businesses shall remain **closed**:
  - Bars, taverns, brewpubs, breweries, microbreweries, distillery pubs, wineries, wine tasting rooms (retail sales only, no tastings), special permit licensees, clubs, and other places offering alcoholic beverages for on-site consumption except for restaurants
  - Cigar bars, hookah bars, and smoking clubs
- Restaurants and Fitness Facilities are allowed to partially open as outlined in the attached guidelines
- Places of worship are allowed to increase the number of people in their facilities, if they so choose, as outlined in the attached documents
- Recommendations for specific industries are included in the following attachments:
  - Attachment A: Restaurants
  - Attachment B: Fitness Facilities
  - Attachment C: Places of Worship
  - Attachment D: Approved Variance from CDPHE

#### **Group gatherings**

- Group gatherings shall contain no more than 10 people

- Participants shall maintain at least six feet (6 ft.) distance from each other
- No festivals or other organized large gatherings will be allowed until at least July 1st, at which time the situation will be evaluated to determine when and if festivals and other types of large gatherings can resume
- Large venues shall remain **closed** (movie theaters, nightclubs, concert facilities, sporting event facilities, etc.)
- Private events that involve more than 10 people shall not be allowed at this time

**DURATION**

Delta County Public Health Order 2020-01, is effective as of 3:30p.m. May 22, 2020. This Order is in effect until the final expiration of CDPHE Public Health Order 20-28 unless modified, terminated or extended.

The decision to continue to lift restrictions, stay with the current plan, or go back to Governor's Safer at Home plan will be made by Delta County Public Health based on the rate of positive COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations in Delta County.

Effective date: May 22, 2020 BY

ORDER OF



Karen O'Brien  
Public Health Director  
Delta County Health Department

## Attachment A: Restaurants

Restaurants and dining rooms, including those at private social clubs, are hereby permitted to resume providing dine-in services. All restaurants and dining rooms that operate during the effective dates of this Variance Order shall implement measures which mitigate the exposure and spread of COVID-19 among its patrons and workforce. State and local officials may tailor the application of opening criteria to local circumstances (e.g., metropolitan areas that have suffered severe COVID outbreaks vs. rural and suburban areas where outbreaks have not occurred or have been mild).

To prepare to comply with opening procedures, operators should update their existing policies and operating procedures in accordance with the latest FDA, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and Environmental Protection Agency guidance and in accordance with Delta County and Colorado State officials:

### Reopening Guidance on Social Distancing

Delta County understands that there may be concerns about staff and patron safety, and about whether facilities are conducive to successful implementation of social distancing best practices. Where practicable, restaurants are encouraged to prioritize services through take-out, delivery, curbside pick-up options, and exterior guest seating over limited dine-in seating services.

The partial opening opportunity offered by this local variance is completely voluntary. Restaurants that choose to open their dining spaces to limited dine-in services must do so under the following guidelines, and ensure each of the following items is adequately addressed before opening dining spaces to the public.

1. Restaurants shall limit the number of customers seated at interior dining spaces to **thirty percent (30%) of the fire or building code capacity.**
2. Customers are not permitted to wait in the lobby area or in lines outside the door for a table. Consider a reservations-only business model, text upon arrival for seating, or call-ahead seating to better space diners and maintain social distancing guidelines.
3. Make reasonable accommodations for vulnerable individuals who are still under Stay at Home advisement (i.e. special hours, designated seating areas, seating assistance, etc.)
4. Update floor plans for dining areas, redesign seating arrangements to ensure at least six feet (6 ft.) of separation between table setups and groups of guests. Consider positioning of customers within the space to avoid placing patrons directly near ventilation systems and open doors or windows where possible to improve ventilation.
5. Implement one-way entry, one-way exit, and directional walkways as much as possible.
6. Outdoor seating spaces are included under same provisions as interior dining. Exterior seating must adhere to same social distancing and cleaning/sanitizing guidelines.
7. **Bars will remain CLOSED**, including those that are part of restaurants. Only staff are permitted at the bar in order to prepare alcoholic beverages for guests seated in dining areas and take-out orders. Guests are **NOT** permitted at the bar. Social distancing guidelines must be maintained when more than a single employee is working behind the bar.
8. **All restaurant and dining room playgrounds shall remain closed.**
9. **Group party sizes are limited to six members of a single household.** Where practical, especially in booth seating, physical barriers are acceptable. Individuals and group parties shall be seated in a way to provide more than six feet between one party and a separate party.

10. Remind third-party delivery drivers and any suppliers of the restaurant of the internal distancing requirements.
11. Post signs at entrances regarding face coverings in order to enter the business, post signs that state no one with a fever or symptoms of COVID-19 are permitted in the restaurant, and post signs throughout the facility to remind customers and staff of social distancing and proper hygiene guidelines. Provide hand sanitizer for guests to use, including contactless hand sanitizing stations, and post signs reminding guests about social distancing. Thank them for their patience as you work to ensure their safety.
12. Limit contact between waitstaff and guests. If practical, physical barriers such as partitions or Plexiglass barriers at registers are acceptable.
13. Use technology solutions where possible to reduce person-to-person interaction: mobile ordering and menu tablets; contactless payment options. Clean and sanitize all equipment following each use by patrons or staff.
14. Employees must be screened for symptoms each day before beginning work, and those who are symptomatic must be excluded from the facility and required to remain in isolation for 10 days, per CDC guidance.
15. Re-engineer work flow in kitchen spaces to maximize social distancing space. Where possible, workstations should be staggered so employees avoid standing directly opposite one another or next to each other. Where six feet (6 ft.) of separation is not possible, consider other options (e.g., face coverings) and increase the frequency of surface cleaning and sanitizing.  
*NOTE: Non-medical cloth face coverings for all employees are required by Delta County officials to mitigate the distancing gap. Face coverings should be cleaned daily according to CDC guidance.*
16. Consider staggering break and lunch periods to limit the number of employees allowed simultaneously in break areas. With larger staffs, use communication boards or digital messaging to convey pre-shift meeting information.

#### **Reopening Guidance on Monitoring Health & Personal Hygiene**

1. Per existing FDA Food Code requirements, employees who are sick should remain at home.
2. If an employee becomes ill or presents signs of illness, the operator should identify the signs during a pre-work screening and follow the business's established policies on when the ill employee is allowed to return to work. At a minimum, however, follow CDC guidelines – tell the employee to self-isolate for seven days from the onset of symptoms and be symptom-free for three days without medication.
3. Taking employees' temperatures is at the operators' discretion. The CDC has not mandated taking an employee's temperature and any operator who chooses to do so should engage health officials first and adopt policies aligned with proper procedures. CDC guidance states the minimum temperature that indicates a fever is 100.4°F. Recommend screening all employees reporting to work for COVID-19 symptoms:

- Best practice: Temperature checks should be conducted for every employee. Persons with temperatures above 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit should not be permitted to work
  - Minimum practice: Question employees regarding COVID-19 symptoms
    - ✓ Have you been in close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19?
    - ✓ Are you experiencing a cough, shortness of breath, or sore throat?
    - ✓ Have you had a fever in the last 48 hours?
4. Ask customers if they are experiencing any symptoms commonly associated with COVID-19 prior to seating them in the dining area. If they customer is, do not allow them to enter the facility.
  5. *Non-medical cloth face coverings for all employees are required by Delta County Health Department.* Face coverings worn by employees should be cleaned or replaced daily in accordance with CDC guidance. CDC provides overall cleaning guidance [here](#).
  6. Train all employees on the importance of frequent hand washing, the use of hand sanitizers with at least sixty percent (60%) alcohol content, and give them clear instruction to avoid touching hands to face.
  7. Coordinate with food/supply distributors to ensure that additional supplies of hand sanitizer and hand soap are available for ordering.

#### **Reopening Guidance on Food Safety**

1. Discard all perishable food items that were prepared prior to closing or are out of date.
2. Conduct deep clean and sanitizing of entire facility before re-opening facility to the public.
3. Before re-opening dining areas to public, flush water (5 minutes) and soda lines to purge and clear liquids and syrups that have been sitting in pipes and lines in preparation for serving to the public.
4. Where **salad bars and buffets** are permitted within Delta County, they must have sneeze guards in place. Salad bars and buffets shall have an employee serving the food; **self-service by customers is not allowed**. Change, wash, and sanitize utensils frequently and place appropriate barriers in open areas to protect food. Alternatively, cafeteria style (worker served) is permissible with appropriate barriers in place. Self-serving stations shall remain closed (drinking stations, bulk dry, etc.).
5. If providing a “grab and go” service, stock coolers to no more than minimum levels.
6. Ensure the person in charge understands and ensures that employees are following Delta County Public Health food handling guidelines.

#### **Reopening Guidance for Cleaning and Sanitizing**

1. Thoroughly detail-clean and sanitize entire facility, especially if it has been closed. Follow sanitizing material guidance to ensure it's at effective sanitizing strength and to protect surfaces. Deep clean and disinfect the entire facility during non-operational hours at least 2 times per week. Regular cleaning and disinfection products can be used. For an additional list of recommended disinfection products visit: <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2>
2. During routine business hours, frequently and thoroughly clean and disinfect all frequently touched objects within the dining and customer areas (door knobs, cabinet handles, handrails, light switches, kitchen counters, dining room tables, etc.). Regular cleaning and disinfection products can be used. For an additional list of recommended disinfection



products visit: <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2>

3. Continue to clean and sanitize food preparation surfaces in the kitchen and other food storage areas. Avoid all food contact surfaces when using disinfectants.
4. Staff should wear disposable gloves when cleaning and disinfecting surfaces. Gloves should be discarded after cleaning and disinfecting is completed. Ensure that staff properly wash their hands immediately after gloves are removed.
5. Remove lemons and unwrapped straws from self-service drink stations.
6. Between guests, staff should clean and sanitize tables and chairs, rotate and clean condiment containers after each guest leaves, clean restaurant digital ordering devices, check presenters, self-service areas as used by staff, tabletops, and common touch areas. Single-use items should be discarded. Consider using rolled silverware and eliminating table presets.
7. Clean and sanitize reusable menus. If you use paper menus, discard them after each customer use. Implement procedures to increase how often you clean and sanitize surfaces in the back-of-house. Avoid all food contact surfaces when using disinfectants.
8. Check restrooms regularly and clean and sanitize them based on frequency of use.
9. Make hand sanitizer readily available to guests upon entering the restaurant. Consider touchless hand sanitizing solutions.

## Attachment B: Fitness Facilities

Fitness Facilities and fitness centers shall implement additional measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19, as practicable. Such measures shall include:

### Business Process Adaptations

1. Restrict facility access to staffed hours only (i.e., any unmanned facilities must be manned) and limit facility occupancy to maintain six foot (6 ft.) social distancing with no more than **thirty percent (30%) of occupancy capacity** per exercise room as dictated by the fire code.
2. Mitigate exposure in the workplace by implementing social distancing guidelines and modify the scheduling. Make reasonable accommodations for vulnerable individuals who are still under Stay at Home advisement (i.e. special hours, designated entrances, etc.).
3. Staff to conduct regular (i.e., every two (2) hours) disinfecting of high-touch surfaces, equipment and common areas of the facility using disinfectant cleaning supplies according to CDC guidelines.
4. **Showers, locker rooms, and lockers will remain closed until further notice.** Ask customers to instead use small gym bags to store personal belongings; remind customers to appropriately monitor or secure such personal belongs or provide a secure area monitored by staff.
5. **All swimming pools, hot tubs, saunas and other recreational water or spa facilities will remain closed** due to inability to consistently clean and disinfect these areas.
6. **All basketball courts, racquetball courts, and other places where formal and informal group or team sports may occur will remain closed** due to potential of direct contact with others and inability to maintain consistent cleaning and disinfecting of area due to size.
7. Restrict usage of cardio machines to every other machine to maintain acceptable Social Distancing between users performing cardio exercises.
8. **Any youth or adult team leagues or sports should remain closed.**
9. Encourage all employees and customers to wear PPE where applicable, and recommend that customers wear a non-medical cloth face covering.
10. Adjust equipment layout and close or restrict access to equipment to maintain at least six feet (6 ft.) of distance between equipment.
11. Temporarily close water fountains, common areas, break rooms, check-in counters, where customers or employees may congregate. Encourage users to provide their own water.
12. If practical, install physical barriers such as partitions or Plexiglass barriers at enrollment desks or guest service desks that must remain open to guests and employees. Utilize no contact payment systems for new and monthly enrollment payments.
13. **No self-service options** (coffee bars, smoothie stations and other forms of communal food in facilities). Food retail should follow restaurant guidelines.
14. Ensure that staffing of facilities is sufficient to enable enhanced sanitization and cleaning measures.

### **Consumer Protection Standards**

1. Screen customers for illness upon entry to the gym:
  - Best practice: Temperature checks should be conducted for every customer. Persons with temperatures above 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit should not be permitted on premise
  - Minimum practice: Question customers regarding COVID-19 symptoms.
    - ✓ Have you been in close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19?
    - ✓ Are you experiencing a cough, shortness of breath, or sore throat?
    - ✓ Have you had a fever in the last 48 hours?
2. Keep doors and windows open where possible to improve ventilation.
3. Post signs encouraging social distancing (visible to customers).
4. Require that customers wash or sanitize their hands upon entering and leaving the facility.
5. Require customers to clean equipment they come in contact with using disinfecting wipes before and after each use.
6. Encourage customers to use a single piece of equipment at a time (i.e., no circuits or “super setting”) so that machines are cleaned after each use.
7. Usage of cardio machines limited to every other machine to maintain acceptable Social Distancing between users.
8. Consider limiting workout length to avoid unnecessary exposure, decrease congestion, and allow for additional sanitization.
9. Recommend that persons more vulnerable or at-risk for COVID-19 as identified by the CDC—including those who are over the age of sixty-five (65) or those who have chronic medical conditions—take extra precaution and refrain from use of the facility during re-opening.

### **Employee Protection Standards**

1. Allow employees to work from home as much as possible.
2. Screen all employees reporting to work for COVID-19 symptoms:
  - Best practice: Temperature checks should be conducted for every customer. Persons with temperatures above 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit should not be permitted to work
  - Minimum practice: Question employees regarding COVID-19 symptoms
    - ✓ Have you been in close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19?
    - ✓ Are you experiencing a cough, shortness of breath, or sore throat?
    - ✓ Have you had a fever in the last 48 hours?
3. If practical, install physical barriers such as partitions or Plexiglass barriers at enrollment desks or guest service desks that must remain opened.
4. Staff should wear non-medical cloth face coverings and other personal protection items as recommended by the CDC such as gloves when cleaning equipment.
5. Provide training on personal protective equipment based on CDC guidelines.
6. Provide a sanitizing station such as a wash basin with soap and/or bottle of hand sanitizer.
7. Practice recommended social distancing to the greatest extent possible.

### **Attachment C: Places of Worship**

Places of Worship shall implement additional measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19, as practicable. Such measures shall include:

1. Places of worship may resume at thirty percent (30%) of capacity of fire code, not to exceed more than fifty (50) total participants if able to provide for six feet (6 ft.) of separation at all times.
2. Participants must be asked whether they have COVID-19 symptoms at the door and excluded from the place of worship if symptomatic.
3. Symptomatic employees must be excluded from the place of worship and required to remain in isolation for 10 days, per CDC guidance.
4. Participants should be encouraged to wear a face covering both when entering and while present in the place of worship.
5. Direct those having symptoms of COVID-19--as well as persons who have had close contact with a person who has symptoms like dry cough, chest tightness, and/or fever--to refrain from participating in in-person services.
6. People must be at least six feet (6 ft.) apart at all times while seated and standing.
7. Consider alternatives to handshaking, handholding, hugging, communion, passing the peace, etc.
8. Those most at risk, including people over age 65 and anyone with a pre-existing immune or respiratory condition, are urged to remain home at all times. Make reasonable accommodations for vulnerable individuals who are still under the Stay at Home advisement. (e.g. online viewing, visits to their home).
9. People should cover their coughs and sneezes, practice hand hygiene, and stay home if they are ill.
10. Consider providing hand sanitizer and tissues in convenient locations.
11. Ensure attendees wear coverings (e.g., cloth mask or bandana) over their mouths and noses while attending services.
12. Consider taking attendees temperatures and asking about signs of illness before admitting them into the place of worship. Disallow individuals with elevated temperatures or signs of illness (coughing, runny nose, sneezing).
13. Clean and disinfect all surfaces before and after any in-person gathering. Follow these guidelines (<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1XQnjAL2nzdPnb7Dabz7-fX8Pw7XlyUe8/view>).

#### **Guidelines for drive-in type venues**

1. Practice the social/physical distancing requirements outlined above.
2. Use electronics that attendees can have inside the car or use a radio channel to broadcast the audio and/or video.
3. If you will be providing devices, ensure they are cleaned and sanitized prior to passing them out.
4. It is preferable for attendees to use their own, personal devices for audio/video.
5. Attendees should stay in their vehicles and not socialize through their vehicle windows.
6. Public restrooms must be cleaned and have signage posted that they should be used by only one person at a time.

7. There should be no other opportunity for in-person interaction. Do not have food or beverage or any other services at the site. Do not make available gathering spaces at this location for attendees to gather outside of their vehicles.

**Attachment D: Approved Variance from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment**



May 22, 2020

J. Mark Roeber, Chair  
Don Suppes, Vice Chair  
Mike Lane, Commissioner  
Delta County Board of County Commissioners  
Delta County Courthouse  
501 Palmer Street, Suite 227  
Delta, CO 81416-1796

Karen O'Brien  
Public Health Director  
Delta County Health Department  
Kobrien@deltacounty.com

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

Dear Commissioners and Ms. O'Brien:

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 three 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 Delta County.

You asked for a variance related to four specific functions, including Restaurants, Houses of Worship, and Fitness Centers. 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 Delta has reported 36 confirmed and 55 total COVID-19 cases, with sufficient testing capacity, 2.5 FTE to provide investigation and contact tracing, a focus on congregate care settings such as nursing facilities and assisted living residences, and sufficient hospital capacity to care for COVID-19 positive patients.

Regarding Delta's thresholds for rescinding the alternate restrictions proposed in the variance, we agree with these triggers including all of the following: a greater than 10% positivity rate, more than 4 ICU hospitalizations at a given time, or 6 new cases per day for 3 days.

Delta County Variance  
May 22, 2020

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

For Restaurants, employees must be screened for symptoms each day before beginning work, and those who are symptomatic must be excluded from the facility and required to remain in isolation for 10 days, per CDC guidance.

This variance approval is granted based on the facts and circumstances today as you have described them in your request. If any of the County's triggers of a greater than 10% positivity rate, more than 4 ICU hospitalizations at a given time, or 6 new cases per day for 3 days 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 Delta County residents are safe and healthy as we deal with this global pandemic. Delta 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

