



GARFIELD COUNTY VARIANCE REQUEST

For Submission in website format: (language in bold is from the template)

Date: May 15, 2020

Name of County: Garfield County

Name of Submitter: Garfield County Board of County Commissioners

Garfield County requests a variance from the following restrictions in Executive Order D 2020 044 and/or Public Health Order 20-28.

List the sections of Executive Order D 2020 044 and/or Public Health Order 20-28 that variances are being sought for:

1. *Restaurants – PHO II.A.1 and Appendix F. 4 (50% of normal seating capacity that applies to inside & outside seating)*
2. *Places of Worship – PHO Appendix F. 5 (50% of normal seating capacity)*
3. *Fitness Facilities and Gyms– PHO II.A.4 (50% of approved occupancy capacity)*
4. *Recreation Areas*
5. *Outfitters*
6. *Large Tourist Attractions*

Summarize alternate restrictions being proposed to replace the above-referenced restrictions and indicate where in the Plan these alternate restrictions are addressed:

1. *Restaurants – PHO II.A.1 and Appendix F. 4 (50% of normal seating capacity that applies to inside & outside seating)*
2. *Places of Worship – PHO Appendix F. 5 (50% of normal seating capacity)*
3. *Fitness Facilities and Gyms– PHO II.A.4 (50% of approved occupancy capacity)*
4. *Recreation Areas*
5. *Outfitters*
6. *Large Tourist Attractions*

Upload your county COVID-19 Suppression Plan and documentation demonstrating approval by the county commissioners, and confirmation from all impacted local hospitals that they can

serve all individuals needing their care. [attached] Provide a brief summary of each of the following elements contained in the county COVID-19 Suppression Plan and indicate where in the Plan more information can be found for each element.

1. Prevalence of COVID -19 within the county

Garfield County's first positive case was reported on March 14th, 2020. To date we have had 113 positive cases. The county has seen 14 hospitalizations of Garfield County residents and have had two deaths. The county has seen a reduction in cases since our peak during the middle of March.

2. Hospital Capacity

Garfield County hospitals (Valley View Hospital and Grand River Health) are safely able to treat all patients requiring hospitalization without resorting to crisis standards of care.

3. Local containment measures

Garfield County's Capacity can accomplish 15 case investigations plus contact tracing (average 5-6 close contacts per case) per day with the ability to increase internal capacity as needed.

4. Conditions to determine the variance is not providing adequate COVID-19 protection and the triggers for tightening restrictions.

Garfield County's Capacity can accomplish 15 case investigations plus contact tracing (average 5-6 close contacts per case) per day with the ability to increase internal capacity as needed.

Yes - We confirm that the variance requested does not lessen or eliminate the protections for Vulnerable Individuals in the Safer at Home Order and PHO 20-28.

Yes - We confirm that the county will collect and monitor data to evaluate the impacts of the variance. and make such data available upon request by CDPHE.

Attachment to website submission:

GARFIELD COUNTY VARIANCE REQUEST AND SUPPRESSION PLAN

In accordance with paragraph II.M of Executive Order 044, Garfield County respectfully submits this application for a locally appropriate variance and, by the Commissioners' signatures below, certifies that the county has a low case count of COVID-19 related cases and that the proposed suppression plan has been approved by the local public health authority and by the two hospitals in Garfield County, Valley View Hospital and Grand River Health.

The requested variance and proposed suppression plan will allow Garfield County to implement a reopening procedure and timeline that best reflects and meets the needs of our community while maintaining a steady decline in COVID related illnesses and ensuring maximum protections for vulnerable populations. In collaboration with local partners, the County believes that it has created an alternative suppression plan that upholds the spirit and intent Public Health Order 20-28 while also allowing certain specific modifications appropriate to local businesses and local needs. Close monitoring and specific criteria will demonstrate the success of the County plan and safeguards are in place that would trigger the re-imposition of tighter restrictions if necessary. Specifically, if case counts begin to rise and reach the point of doubling within 5 days, restrictions will be re-imposed by further LPHA order.

Garfield County Public Health, in collaboration with local businesses, has developed a Roadmap to Reopening and applicable criteria ("Roadmap Criteria"), including a Garfield County Business Social Distancing Plan ("Social Distancing Plan"), which must be completed by any business prior to reopening in Garfield County. To date, over 600 Social Distancing Plans have been submitted and reviewed by those business who chose to begin to reopen in accordance with Executive Order 044 and PHO 20-28. The Roadmap Criteria, **attached**, closely mirrors the Governor's phased recovery plan. Garfield County is committed to its role as a steward of the intent and purpose of the State's public health orders.

Since mid-March, 2020, Garfield County has engaged various industry / local community and business stakeholder groups including oil & gas, restaurants, construction / trades, chambers of commerce, small business development, local governments, lending and finance, tourist attractions and outdoor recreation businesses. This variance request and suppression plan represent the input and collaboration of all representatives of those industries. More specifically, Garfield County initiated a County Economic Recovery Team (CERT) which has a robust stakeholder outreach component where we solicited specific input from these stakeholders about their ability to reopen as well as challenges and gaps they see in their respective industries.

We have also engaged the Task Force which is the core component of the CERT whose purpose is to bring challenges, concerns, gaps in recovery assistance from their respective sectors or parts of the Garfield County local economy & community. The task Force works

toward potential solutions for those concerns raised which will likely be centered around / driven by guidance from the State and County Public Health. This group can assist in developing creative ways our local businesses can operate so that they can remain in business and open to the fullest extent possible within the parameters of Public Health orders. (Much of this will include resource identification and communication which we do well with the County website already.)

The County request variances in the following areas:

1. *Restaurants – PHO II.A.1 and Appendix F. 4 (50% of normal seating capacity that applies to inside & outside seating)*
2. *Places of Worship – PHO Appendix F. 5 (50% of normal seating capacity)*
3. *Fitness Facilities and Gyms– PHO II.A.4 (50% of approved occupancy capacity)*
4. *Recreation Areas*
5. *Outfitters*
6. *Large Tourist Attractions*

The specific suppression plans for each industry are included below.

Garfield County is committed to protecting the health, safety and welfare of all Coloradans by focusing on physical, emotional and financial needs of its local citizens.

1. Prevalence of COVID-19 within Garfield County

Garfield County's first positive case was reported on March 14th, 2020. To date we have had 113 positive cases. The county has seen 14 hospitalizations of Garfield County residents and have had two deaths. The county has seen a reduction in onset dates since our peak during the middle of March. We have a sustained reduction in cases for at least 14 days.

- a) All data in Garfield County indicates a peak during Mar 9-Mar 24.
- b) New case reports dropped for 4-5 weeks post the peak and have since leveled off.
- c) Similarly, this same trend can be demonstrated by self-reports of onset, onset dates from lab-confirmed cases, test date for lab confirmed cases, out-patient and in-patient hospital data and positivity rate for tests performed.
- d) Most concerning is the increase in behavioral health needs. Telehealth visits are continuing to increase for the third straight week. Our community is experiencing a great deal of fear, anxiety and depression within our community regarding job loss and isolation.
- e) Triggers have also been established for when to tighten restrictions
 - I. (Attachment B). It is not one trigger, rather a combination of the following:
 - II. Number of hospitalizations,
 - III. Doubling of cases over a 5-day reporting period,
 - IV. Increase at outpatient clinics (based on our trend data),
 - V. Increasing trend of percent of tests positive over 15 days.

2. Hospital Capacity

Garfield County hospitals (Valley View Hospital and Grand River Health) are safely able to treat all patients requiring hospitalization without resorting to crisis standards of care. Our Garfield County Hospitals are safely able to treat all patients requiring hospitalization without resorting to crisis standards of care.

- a) The data for hospital and medical system capacity mirrors the disease surveillance data.
- b) This is demonstrated by peak admission and ED visits between March 14 and March 24 and zero COVID-19 patients in ICU since April 5.
- c) Reports from Valley View Hospital, Grand River Health and from our EMS services report no increase in call volume related to COVID-19 call.
- d) Grand River Health and Valley View Hospital have been able to, at their discretion, reopen for elective procedures as of April 27th and May 4th, respectively.
- e) Grand River Health and Valley View Hospital providers have reinstated wellness and preventative visits as of April 27th and May 4th, respectively.
- f) Indications from hospitals in neighboring counties of Eagle and Pitkin indicate a similar trend with current census being low.

3. Local Containment Measures Being Proposed

- a. Garfield County Public Health Investigation Capacity

Garfield County's Capacity can accomplish 15 case investigations plus contact tracing (average 5-6 close contacts per case) per day with the ability to increase internal capacity as needed.

- b. Local Containment Measures: *(describe the contact tracing resources and protocols)*

Garfield County has 5 - 7 public health nurses who are currently able to do contact investigations on every positive case. Case investigations are initiated within 24 hours. Contact tracing is also performed with people who were in direct contact with identified positive cases.

With fewer cases being reported that capacity to actively monitor each patient is the highest priority. This includes case investigations and contact tracing, as well as ensuring active monitoring, housing and other necessities for the duration of isolation and/or quarantine.

If at any time, cases double over a 5-day period, all measures revert to a Safer-at-Home order.

- c. Outbreak Risks in High-Vulnerability Settings are Minimized [*describe collaboration with the jail and with nursing homes, etc?*]

Garfield County has been actively working with our most vulnerable communities via public health teams.

d. Workplace Preventative Measures are Established:

Garfield County has established a robust Road Map to Recovery (Attached) and has reviewed over 600 local business Social Distancing Plans that follow existing social distancing and COVID-19 protocols.

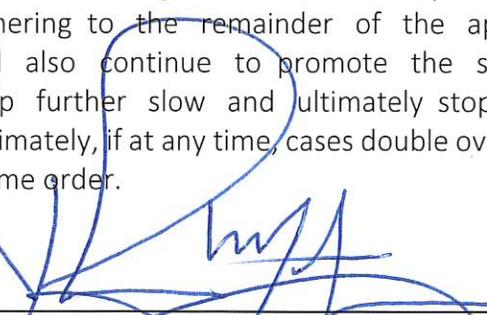
e. Communities are Engaged - Yes

Garfield County has been actively working with all City Managers through the Government Liaison role to the Incident Management Team and has worked extensively with various community stakeholders in the County's Economic Recovery Team (CERT).

4. Conditions to determine the variance is not providing adequate COVID-19 protection and the triggers for tightening restrictions

Although there is no doubt that Garfield County has been affected by the spread of COVID-19, the prevalence of the virus has been considerably less than that of other counties throughout the State of Colorado. Garfield County has not only seen a decline in cases over the past 14 days, but in fact, 7 cases have been reported in Garfield County for more than two weeks. Garfield County attributes this decline to the County's close alliance with local hospitals and a network of other qualified health care professionals who, in collaboration with the County's Public Health Department and other County officials, have been able promptly identify cases, implement isolation procedures, and provide community supports to encourage compliance and effectuate containment.

Notwithstanding the variances requested herein, the County is not only committed to adhering to the remainder of the applicable Public Health Orders of the CDPHE, but will also continue to promote the social distancing recommendations of the CDC to help further slow and ultimately stop the spread of COVID-19 within our community. Ultimately, if at any time, cases double over a 5-day period, all measures revert back to a Safer-at-Home order.



Commissioner John Martin, Chair



Commissioner Tom Jankovsky



Commissioner Mike Samson

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 for both inside and outside dining. Restaurants must take the necessary time to ensure each of the following is adequately addressed before opening to the public.

- Limit number of customers to a maximum of 50% of normal seating capacity. (This limit applies to both indoor and outside dining areas.) Required social distancing may reduce total 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 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

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:

- Limit the number of guests to no more than 50% seating occupancy, provided that there's at least 6 feet of distance between individuals or between groups of a single household. Required social distancing may reduce total seating capacity.
- 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.
- Masks 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 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

Fitness Facilities and Gyms

Gyms, health clubs, and other similar fitness facilities shall be able to open their facilities for limited use. Gym means a building or room used for indoor sports or exercise, such as fitness, dance, exercise or group classes, exercise studios and centers, recreation centers, bowling alleys, indoor pools, and other indoor athletic facilities. Facilities that choose to open under limited use must do so under the following guidelines:

- Limit the number of customers to 50% of fire/building capacity. Required social distancing may reduce total capacity or gathering size.
 - 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 proper hand hygiene, either hand washing or sanitizer.
 - Members experiencing symptoms of any illness MUST exclude themselves from using the facility.
 - 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.
 - 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 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 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
- On-site childcare facilities must remain closed

Recreation

Local recreational facilities may open to the public under the following guidelines:

- Group gatherings must be kept to 50 people or less. Required social distancing may reduce total capacity.
- Park facilities conducive to gathering, including shelters, picnic areas, and playgrounds may open when adequate controls are implemented to ensure 6-foot social distancing.
- 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.
- All golfing guidelines shall remain as outlined in the Garfield County "Road Map to Reopen"
- 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.

Outfitters

Local outfitters to include rafting companies, skydiving, paragliding, hot air ballooning, angling, horseback riding, and zip line and Jeep / ATV tours may be open under strict adherence to the following criteria.

- Social distancing of 6 feet must be required.
 - 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 50% of the fire/building code as long as social distancing can be followed.
 - Buses 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 6 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.

Large Tourist Attractions

Local Large Tourist Attractions in Garfield County may open to the public under the following guidelines:

- 1) **Glenwood Hot Springs Resort** – Has submitted a reopening plan at 30% with appropriate social distancing
- 2) **Iron Mountain Hot Springs** – Has submitted a reopening plan at 30% with appropriate social distancing
- 3) **Glenwood Caverns Adventure Park** – Has submitted a reopening plan at 30% with appropriate social distancing
- 4) **Hanging Lake Trail** – Has a submitted a reopening plan as approved by the USFS
- 5) **Large Tourist Gatherings** – Shall be allowed with a maximum of up to 50 people with appropriate social distancing measures

General Large Tourist Attraction Guidelines:

- Group gatherings must be kept to 50 people or less. Required social distancing may reduce total capacity.
 - Physical distancing should be maintained in outdoor settings (6 feet while hiking, 15 feet while running or biking)
 - Tourist attractions 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.