



June 26, 2020

Eva J. Henry, Commissioner  
Charles Tedesco, Commissioner  
Emma Pinter, Commissioner  
Steve O-Dorisio, Commissioner  
Mary Hodge, Commissioner  
Adams County Board of County Commissioners  
4430 S. Adams County Parkway  
Brighton, CO 80601

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

Dear Commissioners:

Thank you for your application to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) of a variance request to portions of **Public Health Order 20-28 Safer at Home**. I have had an opportunity to review your request for variances regarding the Gaylord Rockies Resort and Convention Center (Gaylord), specifically concerning indoor gatherings, restaurants, and indoor and outdoor pools. This variance approval is limited to the requests associated with the Gaylord; in all other respects the requirements of the Safer at Home Public Health Order 20-28, as amended, remain in effect.

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. In reviewing Adams County's current status with respect to the COVID-19 pandemic, we note that the county has had 4,058 cases to date, with 366 of those cases occurring in the last two weeks, which is a two week incidence of 72 per 100,000 (high level). However, Adams County has an average percent positivity rate over the past two weeks of 5.05%, which places Adams County in the "medium" variance category - see [here](#) for more information. Your application describes a strong public health system in Adams County, with effective disease investigation and surveillance, and partnership with local hospitals that have the capacity to provide care to ill individuals.

Your variance request is for all of the following:

- Allow 30% occupancy or up to 449 people in Gaylord meeting rooms
- Allow 50% occupancy or 250 people in Gaylord restaurants
- Allow 50% occupancy up to 125 people in indoor pools and 250 people in outdoor pools

Adams County Variance  
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Your variance requests are approved as amended below:

- The medium variance approval allows for all indoor and outdoor spaces, in order to achieve 6 feet distancing, at 50% of the posted occupancy code ensuring a minimum 28 square feet per person not to exceed more than 100 people gathered in a confined indoor space at any given time, and not to exceed 175 in an outdoor space.
- In all of the settings at the Gaylord for which you have applied for a variance, these limits apply.

This variance approval is granted based on the facts and circumstances today as you have described them in your request. If the county were to exceed a percent positivity of 10%, 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). Additionally, we note that cases and percent positivity in Adams have very recently increased, and we will be monitoring to determine if continuation of the variance at the medium level is warranted. 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 Adams County residents are safe and healthy as we deal with this global pandemic. Adams 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