April 21, 2020

Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
Attention: Jill Hunsaker-Ryan, Executive Director
4300 Cherry Creek Drive South
Denver, CO 80246
And via email

Dr. Ms. Ryan,

Fremont County, through the Director of Fremont County Department of Public Health and Environment, is respectfully requesting partial relief from the provisions of Governor Polis’s Executive Order D 2020 017 and CDPHE Order 20-24. Fremont County is requesting exemptions from the provisions in the State Orders that impose stringent stay-at-home requirements, prohibit travel except for Necessary Activities, prohibits gatherings of any size, and limit the businesses that may remain open only to those identified as critical or those performing minimum basic operations. Relief from these provisions will allow Fremont County to customize its future public health orders and response to meet the needs of its community and begin economic recovery for businesses and workers alike.

As of April 20, 2020, Fremont County has had eleven confirmed cases of COVID-19. Through consultation with Fremont County’s Medical Officer, I have determined that Fremont County will now receive greater health benefits from incrementally loosening restrictions. Fremont County Department of Public Health and Environment will monitor and regulate social behaviors, events, business practices and travel to control the transmission of the disease.

Fremont County plans to align our approach with the State’s phased reopening model (Attachment A) to maintain the level of social distancing required to ensure we do not
threaten our public health response, our healthcare systems or our community’s health. By following Social Distancing Protocol for businesses (Attachment B) Fremont County will be able to provide restrictions, guidelines and the tools needed for businesses to operate in a safe and functional manor.

Allowing Fremont County to customize its restrictions and approach will allow compressive community recovery, both in terms of health and economy. Rural Colorado may be better situated to maintain a lower rate of transmission due to our smaller population size and spatial advantages, therefore, I am respectfully requesting that you grant Fremont County’s request for relief from certain restrictions in the State’s Orders.

Respectfully,

Emma N. Davis, MPH, CPH
Fremont County Public Health Director