



STEAMBOAT SPRINGS
CHAMBER

VITALITY IN THE VALLEY

June 12, 2020

Dear Commissioners Corrigan, Monger, and Melton:

In order to be in line with the State's Safer at Home in the Great, Vast Outdoors guidelines for personal recreation, the Steamboat Springs Chamber along with the Gyms and Health Clubs industry work group is formally requesting an exception or amendment to Routt County Public Health Order # 3 for mask wearing for patrons and instructors during exercise.

The current challenges we are facing include: patrons not able to breathe properly while exercising, staff not able to teach group classes, and confusion about the requirements leading to lack of business beyond the decrease of business due to occupancy allowance.

In the Public Health meeting on June 10, Dr. Harrington noted that is not practical to have individuals performing aerobic exercise to wear masks at all times and that with the additional efforts the gyms are taking, he is comfortable with an accommodation for exercise in those facilities that allows people to not wear masks. This consensus is shared by the gym industry work group, and we would respectfully request your support to move forward in this direction and align with state guidelines on mask wearing in gyms and health clubs. The current Public Health Order #3 states: d. All employees and customers must cover their nose and mouth with a face-covering, *unless the nature of the business requires the removal of the face-covering*. We believe that the nature of business conducted in gyms, studios, and health clubs requires the removal of face-coverings while exercise is taking place.

Health and safety of employees and guests has always been at the forefront of the health and fitness industry, along with sanitation, disinfection, and high cleaning standards. Gyms are following all CDC and State guidelines and more in order to open after months of closures and uncertainty. New training systems, mitigation protocols, social distancing requirements, and strict cleaning procedures are already in place to ensure safety.

We support requiring patrons and staff to wear masks when entering and leaving the facility, and moving about the space, including when visiting desks, in restrooms, and while cleaning equipment. Signage would be posted to strongly encourage and recommend face coverings when feasible.

The mission and values of the businesses in this industry are about promoting and providing health and wellness to the community – which is more essential now than ever as we deal with the economic, mental, and emotional impacts of the pandemic and the current climate of our nation. We ask you to review this proposal as soon as possible so we can safely serve the community we love.

Thank you for your leadership, consideration, and for your continued support of the gym and health club industry.

Sincerely,

Kara Stoller

Steamboat Springs Chamber CEO

Stephanie Orozco

Old Town Hot Springs Executive Director and
Gyms/ Health Clubs Industry Group Chair