



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Board of County Commissioners Adjust Variance Request for Events

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STEAMBOAT SPRINGS, CO — Since Governor Polis is planning to increase the statewide gathering size limits for events from 10 to 50 starting on Thursday, June 18, the Board of County Commissioners adjusted the language of their variance request for events in Routt County. The County's variance request will ask the state to approve two more phases for increasing event sizes to 100 people indoors and 175 outdoors starting July 9, and 175 people inside and 250 people outside on July 30.

Yesterday, Governor Polis announced a number of guidelines including for indoor and outdoor events and said that they will go into effect on Thursday, June 18. The Commissioners were going to ask for a variance to allow gatherings and events of 50 people, but the state has just released draft guidance on events. The following are highlights of the draft event guidance:

- **Indoor events (conferences, receptions, museums) can begin to open – these vary based on the size of the venue:**
  - Regular sized rooms **under** 5,650 square feet may open up to 25% capacity or **50** people per room for rooms, whichever is fewer.
  - In large rooms, where you could have an even bigger radius – a 6-foot radius around each person – rooms over 5,650 square feet may open to 25% capacity or up to **75** people per room, whichever is fewer.
  - In rooms **double** that size – extra-large rooms with over 11,300 square feet – may open to 25% capacity, or up to **100** people per room, whichever is fewer. These large and extra-large venue distinctions also apply to **restaurants, houses of worship, life rights, and higher education** – which are activities that are quite similar in nature.
- **Outdoor events (concerts, fairs, rodeos, receptions) can also begin to open:**
  - Standard venues under 5,650 square feet may open up to 50% capacity or up to 50 people
  - Extra-large venues, over 11,300 square feet can open up to 50% capacity or up to 175 people
  - Large venues over 5,650 square feet may open up to 50% capacity or up to 125 people

In the past, the Routt County Department of Public Health has advocated for a 3-4 week monitoring period between phases to measure disease prevalence and other potential effects of opening up different industry sectors. The Commissioners directed staff to edit the variance request to ask the state to approve two more phases for events, 100 people indoors and 175 outdoors starting July 9 and 175 people inside and 250 people outside by July 30.

“I would like to move a little bit faster and ask for bigger group sizes, but I can support this phased approach because we have a strong plan moving forward,” said Commissioner Doug Monger.

The Commissioners discussed other parts of the variance request that might be changed. There was a suggestion of creating a self-certification process for event planners to submit their mitigation plans to an electronic mailbox at the county to ensure that they are meeting site protocols and to track the number of larger events occurring in the community. It was decided not to add self-certification to the variance request, but include it in Routt County’s Public Health Order 2020-03 that will be discussed tomorrow at the Board of Health meeting.

“We would like the community to know that we are moving forward on our events variance request and hope to have it approved so we can get started with phase two on July 9. We are also eagerly awaiting to hear more from the governor about the state’s next phase called Protect Our Neighbors. After three weeks of phase 3 of the variance request, in late August we will apply for Protect Our Neighbors, which allows events up to 500 people. All these phases depend on everyone doing their part in keeping our disease prevalence low,” said Board Chairman Tim Corrigan.

All these variance requests depend on Routt County meeting the disease [thresholds outlined by the state](#). On the Safer at Home website it states that 25 cases per 100,000 over two weeks is identified as low spread. For Routt County’s population of 25,000, a low spread would mean 6.5 cases over two weeks. A medium viral spread would be 13 cases over two weeks and a high spread would be 26 cases in a two-week period.

The full state guidelines are available online at [coloradosaferathome.com](https://coloradosaferathome.com)  
Information on Protect Our Neighbors can be found [here](#)

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