April 20, 2020

Governor Jared Polis
Capitol Building
200 E. Colfax Ave., Rm. 136
Denver, CO 80203

RE: Executive Order D 2020 017, CDPHE Order 20-22, and CDPHE Order 20-24

Dear Governor Polis:

Mesa County is respectfully requesting to be excluded from the provisions of your Executive Order D 2020 017, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) Order 20-22, and CDPHE Order 20-24 (the “State Orders”). Exclusion from these orders will allow Mesa County to implement its own reopening plan; restoring the balance between community health and our economy in the manner and time frame that best meets the needs of our communities. The attached document outlines our reopening plan.

Mesa County’s first positive case of COVID-19 was reported on March 14th, and to-date, we have 34 positive cases. The greatest spike in numbers occurred in early April when four positive cases were reported. Between March 14th and today, our epidemiological curve has remained flat. In the course of a month, we’ve had only six hospitalizations, three of which have since been discharged. Our sampling site has reduced its operations to half-day because we’re not able to fill our appointment schedule.

Mesa County is obviously at a place where it makes sense to incrementally loosen restrictions, which we’d like to do on our own terms. This action will not burden any public health resources outside of Mesa County. Our local public health agency will still regulate social behaviors, events, types of business that may reopen, and travel into and around the county, to control disease transmission. Additionally, hospital capacity in Mesa County remains more than adequate to address COVID-19 cases as well as other medical issues in our regional service area.

Mesa County residents are parents, employees, neighbors, and business owners. They’ll appreciate the opportunity, as part of the recovery process, to be directly involved in the implementation of their own local reopening plan. Thank you for considering our request for exclusion from the State’s Orders.

Sincerely,

Scott McInnis, Chair
Board of County Commissioners

Rose Pugliese
Commissioner

John Justman
Commissioner