

**Moffat County Board of Public Health  
221 W Victory Way Suite 130 Craig, CO 81625**

**May 19, 2020**

**In attendance:** Ray Beck, Chair; Donald Broom, Board Member; Erin Miller, Deputy Clerk & Recorder; Josh Carney; Rebecca Tyree; Shauana Merrill; (by phone) Shannon Lukens; Melody Villard

**Call to Order  
Special County Board of Public Health Meeting**

**3:00 pm**

Beck called the special Board of Public Health meeting to order.

The purpose of this meeting is:

- 1) To approve a letter to the public that will be published in the newspaper (see attached)
- 2) To approve a letter to Governor Polis (see attached)

Beck gave an overview of how and where the meeting times, etc. is posted for these (and other) meetings. He also explained the processes that the Moffat County Board of Public Health has had to go through to comply with and obtain variances from State Executive Orders. The Board totally promotes personal responsibility.

- 1) Rebecca Tyree came before the Board to explain why the Board of Health is in existence, according to State statute and guidelines. This letter explains this process and the duties of the Board of Public Health. Beck commented that while many in the community feel like we need to buck the system, the Board feels like it is important to follow the Executive Orders because of the possible financial ramifications.

Broom made a motion approve publication of the Public Health letter in the newspaper. Beck seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-0.

- 2) Beck discussed the State's "Safer at Home" Executive Order. The Governor is scheduled to publicly comment on revisions to this plan on May 25 or 26. Beck commented that there is a concerted effort across the State to ask the Governor to let restaurants open (by some degree) by May 21. At this time, restaurants are ok'd to have outside dining, as long as they follow Social Distancing, etc. Rebecca Tyree read the letter to Governor Polis.

Broom made a motion approve sending a letter to Governor Jerod Polis. Beck seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:31 pm

**Meeting Adjourned**

Submitted by: Erin Miller, Deputy County Clerk and Recorder

Approved by:

Ray Beck

Don Lee

Conor Brown

Approved on:

June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Attest by:

Erin Miller





Board of Public Health

May 20, 2020

Dear Citizens of Moffat County:

As you well know, the Coronavirus known as “COVID-19” has wreaked havoc on people’s lives all over the world, both with regard to life and health, but also with regard to being able to make a living and buy needed supplies. The Moffat County Board of Health, which is the same as the Board of County Commissioners of Moffat County, has an essential role to play in protecting public health in Moffat County because that is a task given to them pursuant to laws of the State of Colorado.

In order to provide background information, the Moffat County Board of Health will ask and answer key questions. If you would like additional information, please feel free to contact a member of the Board.

What is Public Health?

“Public health” (defined in section 25-1-502(5) of the Colorado Revised Statutes (C.R.S.)) means the prevention of injury, disease, and premature mortality; the promotion of health in the community; and the response to public and environmental health needs and emergencies and is accomplished through the provision of public health services.

Practically, public health includes things such as tobacco education, immunizations, encouraging exercise and a healthy diet, and preventing the transmission of contagious diseases through public health orders.

Who provides public health?

By state law, each county has to establish or be part of a local public health agency organized under a local board of health with a public health director and other staff necessary (including a physician) to provide public health services. In Colorado, public health is a shared responsibility among state and local public health agencies. (Section 25-1-501, C.R.S.)

On April 7, 2009, the Moffat County Board of County Commissioners adopted Moffat County Resolution 2009-35, establishing the Moffat County Public Health Agency and designating members of the Board of County Commissioners as the Board of Health, which is permitted in a county with a population of less than one hundred thousand people as of 2008. The terms of the members of the county board of health coincides with their terms as commissioners, and they assume all the duties of appointed county boards.

The State of Colorado gives grants to the local public health agencies, including the Moffat County Public Health Agency, to provide support for public health services as established by the State Board of Health. Their efforts include assessing, maintaining, and improving local capacity to provide services as established by the State Board of Health.

Pursuant to C.R.S. §§ 25-1-506, 25-1-508, 25-1-509, and other applicable authorities, the Moffat County Board of Health and the Moffat County Public Health Director have powers and duties to develop and promote the public policies needed to secure the conditions necessary for a healthy community. In the event of a public health emergency, the Moffat County Public Health Agency issues orders and adopts rules consistent with the laws and rules of the State of Colorado.

The Moffat County Public Health Agency has the duty to investigate and control the causes of epidemic or communicable diseases and conditions affecting public health and to establish, maintain, and enforce isolation and quarantine, and in pursuance thereof, and for this purpose only, to exercise physical control over property and over the persons of the people within the jurisdiction of the agency as the agency may find necessary for the protection of the public health.

The Moffat County Public Health Agency obtained a variance from portions of Executive Directive D20 044 and Public Health Order 20-28 on May 14, 2020, so that Retail, Gyms, Movie Theaters, and Places of Worship are permitted to operate in Moffat County, provided they comply with certain conditions. On May 14, 2020, the Moffat County Public Health Agency submitted another request for a variance so that restaurants in Moffat County can be re-opened as well.

It is important for folks to understand that the Moffat County Public Health Agency is required to follow Colorado Statutes, and it is not a health care provider.

You can access more information about the Moffat County Board of Health, including meeting times, minutes, and a link to the Board of Public Health Mitigation Plan Dropbox at: <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/moffatcounty/board-public-health>.

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Ray Beck, Chairman  
Commissioner

Don Cook  
Commissioner

Donald Broom  
Commissioner

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June 18, 2020

Governor Jared Polis  
136 State Capital Building  
Denver, CO 80203

**Also by Email: [governorpolis@state.co.us](mailto:governorpolis@state.co.us)**

Re: Request for greater latitude in meeting public health needs of Moffat County

Dear Governor Polis:

We want to thank you for taking appropriate measures to protect the public health of Coloradans, and it is apparent that efforts to “flatten the curve” have been successful in Colorado. Hospitals have been able to meet the needs of those suffering from COVID-19 in Colorado because Coloradans followed your “Stay at Home” Executive Order and the corresponding Public Health Order from the Colorado Department of Health and Environment.

The Moffat County Board of Health (the Board of County Commissioners) has strongly encouraged its residents to follow the Stay at Home Order and we have supported your actions as governor in protecting the public health. Now we are requesting that you support the Moffat County Public Health Agency by authorizing our local public health agency to make decisions locally and get our community back to work.

At this point, we believe it is essential to balance how we protect the public health of the citizens of Moffat County, Colorado, by encouraging folks to follow Social Distancing protocols and other guidelines to protect physical health, but also allowing them to go back to work and be able to interact with each other to protect their social, emotional, spiritual and mental health as well. We believe the appropriate public health policy for our community should balance all the public health needs of our citizens and also take into consideration that we have had very few cases and there have been no new cases in Moffat County for four weeks.

While the Moffat County Board of Health understands there is a risk that people can still succumb to this virus, there are measures in place to protect the people of Moffat County. We cannot realistically stay as shut down as we are due to the adverse impact on local businesses, restaurant owners, and individuals. The toll of isolation and unemployment has to be weighed in considering public health. At this time, Moffat County has cancelled or curtailed almost all of its signature and/or social events for the summer, including Memorial Day Services, the celebration of July 4<sup>th</sup>, Grand Old West Days, and the Balloon Festival.

Moffat County has only had six people with diagnosed cases of COVID-19, and all six have recovered. The Moffat County Board of Health has recently deployed a testing center on two consecutive Fridays, testing 48 individuals, all of which tested negative for COVID-19. We are taking steps to mitigate

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## **BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

221 W. Victory Way, Ste. 130  
Craig, CO 81625  
(970) 824-5517

**Don Cook**  
District 1

**Ray Beck**  
District 2

**Donald Broom**  
District 3

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

Governor Polis

June 18, 2020

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transmission of this virus and, at this point, we firmly believe it is better for the overall public health of Moffat County residents to have businesses open back up, preferably at 30% capacity for a limited time, and then at a greater capacity if no new cases emerge.

Almost every person in Moffat County who owns a smaller retail business, gym, or restaurant is facing a public health crisis on another level because of the mental and emotional stress these business owners endure trying to stay in business, pay rent, utilities, employees, and taxes, at the same time they have either no income or greatly reduced income.

We appreciate that you granted our request for a variance from portions of Executive Directive D20 044 and Public Health Order 20-28 on May 14, 2020, so that Retail, Gyms, Movie Theaters, and Places of Worship are once again permitted to operate in Moffat County, provided they comply with certain conditions and a defined plan.

On May 14, 2020, the Moffat County Public Health Agency submitted another request for a variance so that restaurants in Moffat County can be re-opened as well. We are requesting that you act to grant our second request for a variance and allow Moffat County restaurants to be able to open up (with a defined plan to protect public health) before Memorial Day Weekend so that Moffat County residents can get back to work as soon as possible.

Sincerely,



Ray Beck, Chair  
Commissioner



Don Cook  
Commissioner



Donald Broom  
Commissioner

Cc: Moffat County Attorney