



COLORADO FITNESS COALITION

To: CDPHE Executive Director Jill Ryan

Fr: Colorado Fitness Coalition (CFC)

Subject: Urgent request to keep Colorado Fitness Facilities open

Dear Executive Director Ryan:

Thank you for all you are doing to keep Coloradans safe and healthy, and our economy open. We are appreciative of our past communications and your support of the Coalition.

The Colorado Fitness Coalition was formed in August 2020 to coordinate COVID-19 safe procedures and adherence to state-wide mandates, communicate the needs of the fitness industry in Colorado and ensure Colorado continues to be honored as the healthiest state in the nation. We come to you at a critical crossroads as Adam's county "gyms" are set to be closed per the county's movement to Safer at Home 3: High Risk. **The Colorado Fitness Coalition ask you to reconsider this change for gyms with the updated guidelines to remain at Safer At Home 2: Concern level.** We request this variance based on COVID-19 data, the ability for gyms to command COVID-19 safe protocols and contact tracing, and the critical nature of all Coloradan's to have access to exercise during this very challenging time.

We would like to request a moment of your time on Monday, October 26 to further discuss our plea. We will clear our schedules for a virtual meeting (or in person if you request) so we can work together to safely improve Coloradan's health and continue our economic recovery.

- **The Data Shows Fitness Centers are Safe.** The State's COVID Outbreak Tracker reports zero outbreaks tracked to gyms or fitness facilities. This data allows for the reasonable request to allow fitness facilities to continue at the Safer At Home 2 guidelines.
- **Fitness Facilities can enforce COVID-protocols better than most industries.** We know the most critical elements to keep indoor areas safe is the ability to wear a mask, stay distanced, enforce high cleaning standards and contact trace. Fitness facilities have and can enforce the same standards as health care facilities, see the chart below as an example.

SAFETY STANDARDS	PRIMARY HEALTH CARE (Physical & Mental)					PERSONAL CARE		LEISURE	
	Doctor's Offices	Dentist Office	Lab	Physical Therapy	Fitness Centers	Hair Salons & Barbers	Personal Care Salons	Retail	Dine-In Restaurants
A Mask can be worn at ALL times	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Capacity can be managed	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Room for 100% Physical Distancing	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Extended Interaction between Individuals can be Avoided					✓			✓	
Formal Check In process to Allow for Contact Tracing	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		

- Access to Exercise is CRITICAL for Health Care Equity.** Shutting down access to exercise has significantly more negative impact on lower socio-economic groups in Colorado. The current suggested alternatives for exercise during the pandemic discriminate against many communities in Colorado, including Adams County.
 - “Take it outside” – This does not help many of our communities as the temperature drops.
 - Virtual Fitness/“Workout at Home” – A home gym is not an option for people who cannot afford it or who live in a small space with no room to exercise.

Based on these critical points, we request for fitness facilities to be allowed to remain at the criteria set aside for Safer At Home 2: Concern.

We understand your busy schedule but would greatly appreciate your consideration and time on Monday. We will follow-up by calling the number listed on your signature if we do not hear from you.

Thank you in advance for coordinating efforts to further the health of all Coloradans.

On Behalf of The Colorado Fitness Coalition

Addendums

- 1) Colorado Health and Fitness Industry Fast Facts
- 2) Health Clubs Are Essential White Paper
- 3) Important Health and Fitness Industry Information
- 4) Letter to Kacey Wulff-10.21.20
- 5) COVID-19 OB weekly report 10 21 2020