

WHAT IS **CHANGING** MAY 1

VARIANCE/EXCEPTIONS: County-Level Decision Making

Depending on health metrics, counties are able to request a variance to the State Health Officer to make orders more or less restrictive. Businesses can also apply for exceptions. Contact your local County Health Officer for information. County-level health will be key in this process. The flowchart below outlines the process for county officials when making requests for variance or exception requests:

1. Local discussion on variance order or exception request.

Local partners, (CHO, county commissioners, law enforcement, and the county attorney) should discuss any countywide variance and/or exception being sought.

2. CHO consideration of any planning documents.

Planning documents may need to be developed depending on the content of the variance and/or any exception.

3. CHO approves or denies request (if it is a specific exception).

CHO approves or denies request. If denied, the process may return to Steps 1 and 2, if appropriate.

4. CHO discusses proposed variance order or exception request with SHO, submits to SHO.

CHO discusses proposed variance order or exception request with SHO. Counties draft proposed variance order or exception request in conjunction with the SHO and submits to the SHO for approval.

5. SHO consults with AG and approves/denies order and/or exceptions.

SHO reviews and consults with AG. The proposed variance and/or exception requests are approved or denied. If denied, SHO and CHO may discuss any changes necessary.



CHO = County Health Officer | SHO = State Health Officer | AG = Attorney General