



CHAFFEE COUNTY COLORADO
DECLARING A LOCAL DISASTER EMERGENCY
COVID-19 (Coronavirus Disease 2019)

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS:


- A.** Novel Coronavirus (resulting in the disease COVID-19) is a highly contagious virus that originated in China and has since spread to numerous countries around the world, including the United States.
- B.** COVID-19 can be a serious illness leading to severe complications and even the risk of death in the elderly or those with underlying health issues or compromised immune systems.
- C.** On January 30, 2020, the World Health Organization (“WHO”) declared the worldwide outbreak of COVID-19 a “public health emergency of international concern.” On January 31, 2020, the United States Department of Health and Human Services declared the virus a public health emergency. On March 11, 2020, WHO declared COVID-19 a pandemic, pointing to the sustained risk of further global spread. On March 11, 2020, the Governor of Colorado memorialized a verbal order from the previous day declaring the presence of COVID-19 in Colorado constitutes a disaster emergency.
- D.** Chaffee County Public Health and Environment (“CCPHE”) anticipates that, due to the contagiousness of the illness and the fact that numerous travelers from around the world visit the county, Chaffee County will see cases of the virus and its transmission within the community. Developing social distancing policies prior to an extensive outbreak has been a proven means of helping to contain COVID-19 outbreaks.
- E.** CCPHE anticipates that without appropriately responding to the illness, including cancelling and postponing large public events, numbers of cases within Chaffee County will rise, may result in serious illness or death for certain members of the community, and also may have the effect of interrupting the functioning of the community in terms of work attendance, school attendance, and the like.
- F.** The cost and magnitude of responding to and recovering from the impact of the ensuing event is far in excess of the county’s available resources.
- G.** Colorado law provides for declaring a local disaster emergency to assist local governments in responding to and recovering from emergency events, including epidemics and emergency epidemics and pandemics. *See C.R.S. 24-33.5-703(3)*

suspended until further notice. The Chaffee County community is strongly directed to engage in social distancing and to postpone or cancel any gatherings or events where people will congregate in large number and/or in close contact with one another. Publicly-scheduled meetings shall take place, including the County Commissioner meeting scheduled for March 17, 2020. However, County staff shall make arrangements for the public to virtually-participate in such meetings online or via teleconference. These directives will be revisited and monitored daily. Additional restrictions may need to be imposed by the Public Health Director as the situation progresses, including without limitation mandatory closures.

6. The County buildings shall remain open as normally scheduled but decisions about county staff working from home will be made on a case-by-case basis taking into consideration the ongoing operational needs of the County and also considering public health advice. Supervisors should consult with the County Administrator or County Finance Director but have discretion to designate employees as critical to maintaining County operations. It is recognized that not all work will be able to be performed at home and may require physical presence all or some of the time.

ADOPTED on this 13th day of March, 2020.

CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS


Chairman

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