

**DECLARATION OF LOCAL DISASTER EMERGENCY
CROWLEY COUNTY, COLORADO**

WHEREAS, the Novel Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic is causing widespread human and economic impacts to unincorporated Crowley County, Colorado; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared the worldwide outbreak of COVID-19 a “pandemic”, and on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States issued a Federal Emergency Declaration for the Coronavirus Pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 Pandemic is causing a public health emergency in unincorporated Crowley County by generating multiple disruptions and impacts on healthcare infrastructure and continuity of Crowley County government that may cause delays or interrupt capacity to deliver necessary services; and

WHEREAS, the Crowley County Office of Emergency Management has advised the Board of County Commissioners of Crowley (Board) of a disaster (as the term is defined in the Colorado Disaster Emergency Act, §24-33.5-701, *et seq.*, C.R.S.) currently present in the unincorporated area of Crowley, Colorado, to-wit: the occurrence of imminent threat of widespread or severe damage, injury, or loss of life or property resulting from the COVID-19 Pandemic requiring emergency action to avert danger or damage; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate and in the interests of the public health and safety to rapidly address community spread of COVID-19 and subsequent cascading impacts such as economic distress, and would further protect the health and safety of the public, to declare an emergency in unincorporated Crowley County; and

WHEREAS, the cost and magnitude of responding to and recovery from the impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic is far in excess of Crowley County’s available resources; and

WHEREAS, the economic cost and magnitude of the State ordered closing of all restaurants, bars, gyms and theaters by Governor Jared Polis will have a devastating impact in unincorporated Crowley County; and

WHEREAS, declaration of a local disaster emergency will assist and permit access to local emergency funds, Federal and State assistance, adjustments to policies, procedures and ordinances to ensure the public’s health and welfare; and

WHEREAS, an Emergency Declaration allows Crowley County to be able to take proactive measures and activate an Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) to better respond to the impacts of the COVID-19 event; and

WHEREAS, the County has remotely activated its Department Operations Center, and the Board of County Commissioners now seeks to declare a local disaster, in addition to other steps outlined below, to address the COVID-19 outbreak; and

WHEREAS, the Crowley County Emergency Manager and the Crowley County Health Department Director have recommended that a local disaster be declared; and

WHEREAS, the Chair of the Board, as principal executive officer of Crowley County, is authorized to unilaterally declare a local disaster pursuant to §24-33.5-709(1), C.R.S., and to activate the emergency management and operations plans and resolutions of Crowley County.