

**RESOLUTION NO. 2020-16**

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
COUNTY OF LA PLATA, STATE OF  
COLORADO**

**FIRST EXTENSION OF THE LA PLATA COUNTY  
COVID-19 LOCAL DISASTER EMERGENCY**

**WHEREAS**, COVID 19 is a highly contagious virus that originated in China and has since spread to countries around the world, including the United States.

**WHEREAS**, on January 30, 2020, the World Health Organization declared the worldwide outbreak of COVID-19 a “public health emergency of international concern” and on March 11, 2020 declared it a global pandemic.

**WHEREAS**, on January 31, 2020, the United States Department of Health and Human Services declared the virus a public health emergency and on March 13, 2020 the President of the United States issued a Proclamation that the “COVID-19 outbreak constitutes a national emergency.”

**WHEREAS**, in Colorado, Governor Polis issued an Executive Order declaring a state of disaster emergency due to the presence of COVID-19 and further, on March 11, 2020 issued an Executive Order to suspend operations of all Colorado ski resorts; and

**WHEREAS**, as of March 16, 2020, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (“CDPHE”) confirmed 131 cases of COVID-19 within the State of Colorado;

**WHEREAS**, on March 16, 2020, San Juan Basin Public Health (“SJBPH”) declared a local public health emergency to protect the health of community members in La Plata and Archuleta counties most at risk of severe illness; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 16, 2020, pursuant to the authority delegated by the Board of County Commissioners, the La Plata County Manager declared a local disaster emergency because 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; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to C.R.S. § 24-33.5-709(1) “A local disaster may be declared only by the principal executive officer of a political subdivision. It shall not be continued or renewed in excess seven days except by or with the consent of the governing board of the political subdivision;” and

**WHEREAS**, the conditions that spurred the County Manager to declare the local disaster emergency have not abated; and

**WHEREAS**, “The effect of a declaration of local disaster emergency is to activate the response and recovery aspects of any and all applicable local and interjurisdictional disaster and emergency plans and to authorize the furnishing of aid and assistance under such plans.” C.R.S. § 24-33.5-709(2); and

**WHEREAS**, defining clear roles for and direction to those responding to the local disaster emergency and operating under La Plata County’s emergency operations plan will allow a more effective response.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Commissioners of La Plata County, Colorado that:

1. The La Plata County Board of County Commissioners confirms, determines, and declares that the presence and likelihood of additional cases of COVID-19 within the State or Colorado and the potential for cases of COVID-19 within La Plata County constitute a local disaster emergency that warrants continuing the emergency response and furnishing aid and assistance to affected portions of the community.

2. The Board recognizes that SJBPH, by and through its director and in coordination with the CDPHE, which is leading the statewide response to COVID-19, is currently incident command for the response to COVID-19 within La Plata County. SJBPH has authority under state law to issue orders and guidance and take other actions as necessary to protect the public health, safety, and welfare. The Board directs county staff to take such actions to effectuate the orders and guidance of SJBPH as necessary, in consultation with the Board where appropriate.

3. The Board recognizes the Sheriff of La Plata County is a constitutional officer charged with maintaining public order within La Plata County and is authorized under state law to enforce the orders of SJBPH as well other governmental directives related to disasters and emergencies, all as reasonably necessary to protect the safety of the public. The Board requests the Sheriff to enforce the orders of SJBPH, to utilize its resources and activate any necessary assistance to maintain public order, and continue taking other actions as necessary to ensure the safety of the public during this local disaster emergency.

4. The Emergency Manager for La Plata County is coordinating the countywide response to the disaster, including with partners of La Plata County such as municipalities within the county; the Southern Ute Indian Tribe, first responders; human services, healthcare and emergency medical services providers; providers of critical infrastructure for the community; and other providers of important and necessary services to the public. The Board directs that the Emergency Manager continue to work closely with these partners to ensure a coordinated response throughout the county, and to continue to utilize La Plata County staff and other resources as necessary for an effective response, in consultation with the Board as appropriate.

5. The La Plata County Manager manages the general operations of the county and serves as a liaison to municipalities within the county and others. The

Board directs the County Manager to continue coordinating with internal and external partners and to direct county staff as appropriate and necessary to address the local disaster emergency. The Board also directs the County Manager to work with directors and managers within the county to address staff illness, sick time, working remotely, and similar topics to ensure the continuity of operations within the county in consultation with the Board as appropriate.

6. This local disaster emergency will continue until such time as the Board determines the disaster emergency has terminated through adoption of a resolution declaring such.

7. While the Board shall make every effort to comply with the noticing and other requirements of the Colorado Open Meetings Law, C.R.S. § 24-6-401 *et seq.*, through its typical methods of providing public notice, to the extent exigent circumstances arising out of the need to deal with the disaster emergency render strict compliance impossible on one or more occasions since the beginning of this disaster emergency, the Board hereby ratifies or shall ratify all actions taken at such meetings.

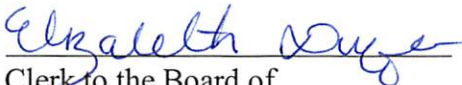
8. This Resolution and Declaration shall be promptly filed with the La Plata County Clerk and Recorder, the Office of Emergency Management and shall be promptly distributed to the appropriate representatives of the news media.

9. This Resolution and Declaration is necessary for the public health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the County of La Plata, State of Colorado.

**DONE AND ADOPTED** by the Board of County Commissioners of the County of La Plata, State of Colorado, this 17<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2020.

LA PLATA BOARD  
OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

ATTEST:

  
Clerk to the Board of  
La Plata County

By:   
Clyde Church, Chair  
  
Gwen Lachelt, Vice-Chair  
  
Julie Westendorff, Commissioner



*[Faint, illegible handwritten text]*



## **La Plata County, Colorado Local Emergency Declaration**

**WHEREAS**, 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; and

**WHEREAS**, the virus may cause serious illness or death in certain cases, particularly where the elderly and persons with underlying health conditions contract it; and

**WHEREAS**, on January 30, 2020, the World Health Organization declared the worldwide outbreak of COVID-19 a “public health emergency of international concern” and on March 11, 2020 declared it a global pandemic. On January 31, 2020, the United States Department of Health and Human Services declared the virus a public health emergency and on March 13, 2020 the President of the United States issued a Proclamation that the “COVID-19 outbreak constitutes a national emergency”. In Colorado, Governor Polis issued an Executive Order declaring a state of disaster emergency due to the presence of COVID-19 in Colorado on March 11, 2020 and a further Executive Order to suspend operations of all Colorado ski resorts on March 14, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, as of March 16, 2020, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) has confirmed 131 cases of COVID-19 within the State of Colorado and public health experts anticipate that, due to the contagiousness of the illness and the fact that numerous travelers from around the world visit the Health District, La Plata and Archuleta counties are at higher risk of COVID-19 spread; and

**WHEREAS**, La Plata County anticipates that without appropriately responding to the illness, numbers of cases within the 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, community and public events, community services and the like; and

**WHEREAS**, the cost and magnitudes of responding to and recovering from the impact of the ensuing event is far in excess of the county’s available resources; and

**WHEREAS**, Colorado law provides for declaring a local disaster emergency to assist local governments in responding to and recovering from emergency events, including epidemics, and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to C.R.S. § 24-33.5-709(1) “A local disaster may be declared only by the principal executive officer of a political subdivision. It shall not be continued or renewed in excess of seven days except by or with the consent of the governing board of the political subdivision;” and

**WHEREAS**, the effect of a declaration of local disaster emergency is to activate the response and recover aspects of any and all applicable local and interjurisdictional disaster and

emergency plans and to authorize the furnishing of aid and assistance under such plans.” C.R.S. § 24-33.5-709(2).

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT DECLARED** by the County Manager of La Plata County, Colorado:

**THAT**, it is hereby determined and declared that the presence of the COVID-19 virus within La Plata County constitutes a local disaster emergency that warrants the mobilizing of emergency response and the furnishing of aid and assistance.

**THAT**, this Declaration shall be promptly filed with the La Plata County Clerk and Recorder and with the Colorado Office of Emergency Management.

**THAT**, this Declaration shall remain in effect for a period of seven (7) days unless continued or renewed in excess of this time period by action of the Board of County Commission for La Plata County.

**THAT**, this Declaration is necessary for the public health, safety and welfare of the citizens of La Plata County, Colorado.

DECLARED this 16<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2020 at 8:46 a.m. at LA PLATA COUNTY, COLORADO.

La Plata County Colorado  
By and through its County Manager

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Noel C. Stevens, County Manager