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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE April 24, 2020

April 24, 2020 719-346-8133

Kit Carson County's efforts to "flatten the curve" – to reduce the potential of overwhelming our regional and

state medical treatment capacity by slowing the spread of COVID-19 in our communities – has been largely successful. We are proud to say there are no COVID-19 patients in our hospital.

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Though risk still exists, especially to certain segments of our population, coordinated efforts are underway to resume a measured level of daily activities. The Kit Carson County Board of Health is attempting to balance protections for public health, protections of personal liberties, and the needs of our local economy as well as the financial welfare of residents.

Our state and national leadership have announced plans for reopening, and the Kit Carson County Board of Health wants you to be prepared for the incremental changes that are coming in the weeks ahead. All businesses that were closed by the Governor's Executive orders, will re-open with a plan from Public Health. Each business will have to sign off on an implemented plan designed for their specific business operations. A more detailed news release addressing these plans will be coming from our Public Health Director, Dawn James.

The current statewide Stay At Home Executive Order will expire on Sunday, April 26, 2020. On Monday, April 27, 2020, while we remain "safer at home," we will no longer be restricted in our movements, and most businesses will reopen.

## What changes are coming for Kit Carson County public services?

- 1. The limited in-person services that were available by appointment only at the County Courthouse will be going back to normal business hours starting Monday, April 27 including the County Clerk's office with the exception of the State Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV), which will continue to schedule appointments for all services.
- 2. Kit Carson County Public Health and Human Services office will continue to be by appointment only. You can call 719-346-7158 ext 110 to set up your appointments.
- 3. Schools will stay closed for the remainder of the school year. Additional guidance will be forthcoming prior to the start of the fall semester. Specific questions should be directed to individual school districts.

The County continues to support towns and special districts as requested to develop procedures for returning to more routine operations.

We remain proud of our Kit Carson County residents. Together, we have faced these challenging times with calm resolve and responsible behavior, which has helped keep the number of COVID-19 cases in the County low. In part, this is thanks to our rural landscape and low population density, but it's also a result of the good decisions of our population – an expression of our rural values. As the Board of Health, we trust our neighbors to do the right thing, and we are focused on providing accurate information that allows residents to evaluate their own risks and determine the appropriate actions to take for themselves.

Thank you for your commitment to keeping Kit Carson County residents and families healthy and safe.
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