



**PROTECT OUR NEIGHBORS
MESA COUNTY FRAMEWORK
August 21, 2020**

Metric #1: Sufficient Hospital Bed Capacity

Hospitals in the county have sufficient bed capacity to manage a 20% surge in hospital admissions or patient transfers.

What is the current status of this metric?

- Currently, Mesa County hospitals have 2 COVID-related hospitalizations.
- Mesa County hospitals have 90 ICU beds with the ability to expand to 125 (28% surge in admissions or patient transfers).
- Total hospital bed capacity is 465, currently 220 (47%) are available.

WARNING INDICATOR

Mesa County Public Health monitors hospital bed capacity on a daily basis via EMResource. A mitigation response will be triggered anytime the number of available beds falls below 75% of capacity.

MITIGATION STEPS

Messaging

- Create draft communications relative to increased hospitalizations and distribute as the situation escalates.
 - Public Health Advisory
 - Health Alert to medical providers
 - Industry-specific communications
 - Source-specific communications
 - High-risk groups and high-risk activities
 - Reduced public interactions
- Develop talking points for infoline and change script as the situation escalates.
- Discuss Medical Surge plan activation with MCPH response team.

PH Order

- Draft a public health order to address policies and procedures related to a particular source. Modify and adopt the order as the situation escalates. The order may cover things such as mask use, lower limits on capacity within specific establishments, and lower limits on the number of people in public and private gatherings, etc.

Partnerships

- Activate Mesa County's Emergency Support Function 8 group (ESF8) to discuss activation of the medical surge plan..
- Convene hospital/MCPH leadership to discuss activation of the medical surge plan.
- Activate Northwest and West Health Care Coalitions (HCC) to reduce transport to local hospitals.

Surveillance

- Increase frequency of Mesa County specific data reported to EMResource.
- Share hospital capacity data with MCPH response team.
- Identify trends to reveal the source(s) of increased hospital admissions and address gaps.

Resources

- Place additional infoline staff on stand-by and activate as the situation escalates.
- Place additional disease investigators and contact tracers on stand-by and activate as the situation escalates.
- Place Alternate Care Facilities (AFC) on stand-by for potential surge and activate as the situation escalates.
- Place EMS on stand-by for potential surge and activate as the situation escalates.
- Ensure hospitals have adequate testing supplies.

Metric #2: Sufficient PPE Supply

Local hospitals have 2 weeks of PPE available based on current PPE use standards.

What is the current status of this metric?

- Hospitals have enough PPE to last 30 days based on current PPE use standards.
- Mesa County's allocations from the Medical Cache have a 20% reserve of the critical PPE supplies for COVID-19 to serve the hospitals.

WARNING INDICATOR

Mesa County Public Health monitors the local PPE supply on a daily basis via EMResource. A mitigation response will be triggered anytime PPE falls below a three-week (21 day) supply.

MITIGATION STEPS

Messaging

- Create draft communications relative to PPE availability and distribute as the situation escalates.
 - Health Alert to medical providers
 - Industry-specific communications
- Develop talking points for infoline and change script as the situation escalates.

PH Order

- Draft a public health order to address policies and procedures related to a particular source. Modify and adopt the order as the situation escalates. The order may cover

things such as mask use, lower limits on capacity within specific establishments, and lower limits on the number of people in public and private gatherings, etc.

Partnerships

- Activate Mesa County's Emergency Support Function 8 group (ESF8).
- Convene hospital/MCPH leadership to determine actions to preserve PPE.
- Activate the donation center to receive essential supplies and PPE.

Surveillance

- Increase frequency for collecting data related to PPE usage and burn rate by facility.
- Monitor supply chain for crucial PPE for the county and region.

Resources

- Request crucial PPE through hospital supply chains and WebEOC.
- Limit distribution of PPE to only critical healthcare.
- Work with Montrose County to sanitize N95 masks using the Battelle system.
- Assist hospitals and medical providers to switch to more sustainable supplies.
- Coordinate for potential implementation of PPE-critical standards of care.

Metric #3: Stable or Declining COVID-19 Hospitalizations

Stable (no greater than 25% increase) or declining counts of new confirmed COVID-19 hospitalizations in the county's referral hospitals in the last 14 days compared to the previous 14 day period.

What is the current status of this metric?

- Mesa County's hospitals had 7 new COVID hospitalizations during the weeks of August 5th through August 16th a 41.6% decrease from the previous two weeks (12 new COVID admissions). As of August 18th, there are 6 people hospitalized due to COVID in local hospitals, 2 are Mesa County residents and 4 are from referral hospitals.

WARNING INDICATOR

Mesa County Public Health monitors new hospitalizations daily, as part of a 14-day rolling total. A mitigation response will be triggered anytime there is at least a 10% increase in the estimated 14-day rolling average of new hospitalizations compared to the daily average of new hospitalizations for the most recent fixed 14-day total.

MITIGATION STEPS

Messaging

- Create draft communications relative to new hospitalizations and distribute as the situation escalates.
 - Public Health Advisory
 - Health Alert to medical providers
 - Industry-specific communications
 - Source-specific communications
 - High-risk groups and high-risk activities
 - Reduced public interactions

- Develop talking points for infoline and change script as the situation escalates.
- Discuss Medical Surge plan activation with MCPH response team.

PH Order

- Draft a public health order to address policies and procedures related to a particular source. Modify and adopt the order as the situation escalates. The order may cover things such as mask use for the general public, lower limits on capacity within specific establishments, and lower limits on the number of people in public and private gatherings, etc.

Partnerships

- Activate Mesa County's Emergency Support Function 8 group (ESF8) to discuss activation of the medical surge plan.
- Convene hospital/MCPH leadership to discuss activation of the medical surge plan.
- Activate Northwest and West Health Care Coalitions (HCC) to reduce transport to local hospitals.

Surveillance

- Increase frequency of Mesa County specific data reported to EMResource.
- Share hospital capacity data with MCPH response team.
- Identify trends to reveal the source(s) of increased hospital admissions and address gaps.

Resources

- Place additional infoline staff on stand-by and activate as the situation escalates.
- Place additional disease investigators and contact tracers on stand-by and activate as the situation escalates.
- Place Alternate Care Facilities (AFC) on stand-by for potential surge and activate as the situation escalates.
- Place EMS on stand-by for potential surge and activate as the situation escalates.
- Ensure hospitals have adequate testing supplies.

Metric #4: Fewer New Cases

Two-week average molecular test positivity rate of less than 5% AND county is meeting minimum testing rate (0.75 per 1,000 population) AND two-week cumulative incidence is no greater than 50 cases/100,000 people in the past two weeks.

What is the current status of this metric?

- For the week of August 8th through August 21st:
 - Positivity rate was 1.8%
 - Testing rate was 13.4 per 1,000 population (2,058 total test performed)
 - Cumulative incidence was 41 cases per 100,000 populations (61 positive cases)

WARNING INDICATOR

Mesa County Public Health monitors new cases and the 2-week positivity rate as part of a 14-day rolling daily update. A mitigation response will be triggered anytime the positivity rate within the rolling 14-day total exceeds 3.5%. The positivity rate from the rolling 14-day period is about two weeks ahead of any recent fixed 14-day periods.

MITIGATION STEPS

Messaging

- Create draft communications relative to new hospitalizations and distribute as the situation escalates.
 - Public Health Advisory
 - Health Alert to medical providers
 - Industry-specific communications
 - Source-specific communications
 - High-risk groups and high-risk activities
 - Reduced public interactions
- Develop talking points for infoline and change script as the situation escalates.
- Discuss Medical Surge plan activation with MCPH response team.

PH Order

- Draft a public health order to address policies and procedures related to a particular source. Modify and adopt the order as the situation escalates. The order may cover things such as mask use for the general public, lower limits on capacity within specific establishments, and lower limits on the number of people in public and private gatherings, etc.

Partnerships

- Activate Mesa County's Emergency Support Function 8 group (ESF8).
- Convene hospital/MCPH leadership to discuss activation of the medical surge plan.
- Activate Northwest and West Health Care Coalitions (HCC) to reduce transport to local hospitals.

Surveillance

- Increase frequency of Mesa County specific data reported to EMResource.
- Share hospital capacity data with MCPH response team.
- Identify trends to reveal the source(s) of increased hospital admissions and address gaps.

Resources

- Place additional infoline staff on stand-by and activate as the situation escalates.
- Place additional disease investigators and contact tracers on stand-by and activate as the situation escalates.
- Place Alternate Care Facilities (AFC) on stand-by for potential surge and activate as the situation escalates.
- Place EMS on stand-by for potential surge and activate as the situation escalates.

- Ensure hospitals have adequate testing supplies.

Metric #5: Sufficient Testing Capacity

County or region has the capacity to test (collect samples and testing partnerships) 15 people per 10,000 residents per day.

What is the current status of this metric?

- Mesa County has the ability to test about 340 people per day (23 per 10,000 residents per day)
- Mesa County has a drive-through testing facility that can test 150 people per day.
- 30 pediatric tests can be conducted at Mesa County Public Health.
- Testing is also done at 8 local primary care offices; each has the capacity to do 20 per day (160 per day)
- Mesa County's hospitals and surgery centers test all elective surgery patients and at-risk healthcare staff.
- MCPH started offering antibody testing on May 14, 2020.
- Mesa County has about 6,000 sample collection kits on hand.

WARNING INDICATOR

Mesa County Public Health monitors testing capacity on a daily basis by looking at the total number of tests performed, and the amount of testing supplies on hand. A mitigation response will be triggered anytime single-day test numbers fall below 85% of the daily average for the most recent fixed 14-day period, or when test kit supplies on hand fall below a one-month supply.

MITIGATION STEPS

Sampling

- Create stricter prioritization groups for testing.

Messaging

- Create draft communications relative to testing availability/prioritization and distribute as the situation escalates.
- Public Health Advisory
- Health Alert to medical providers
- Industry-specific communications
- Develop talking points for infoline and change script as the situation escalates.

PH Order

- Draft a public health order to address policies and procedures related to a particular source. Modify and adopt the order as the situation escalates. The order may cover things such as mask use for the general public, lower limits on capacity within specific establishments, and lower limits on the number of people in public and private gatherings, etc.

Partnerships

- Activate Mesa County's Emergency Support Function 8 group (ESF8).
- Convene hospital/MCPH leadership to determine actions to preserve PPE.
- Activate the donation center to receive essential supplies and PPE.

Metric #6: Ability to Implement Case Investigation and Contact Tracing Protocol

LPHA is able to implement Colorado's case investigation and contact tracing protocol for at least 85% of assigned cases within 24 hours.

What is the current status of this metric?

- Mesa County Public Health has implemented case investigation and contact tracing for 100% of assigned cases within 24 hours.
- Mesa County's 370 cases have resulted in 1,850 associated cases and an average of 5 contacts per case.

WARNING INDICATOR

Mesa County Public Health completes all case investigations and associated contact traces within 24 hours. A mitigation response will be triggered anytime the 24-hour completion time for case investigations and associated contact traces falls below 95%.

MITIGATION STEPS

Surveillance

- Monitor case investigation timeliness and completeness data from CEDRS.
- If capacity diminishes, prioritize cases in high-risk groups and in high-risk settings.
- Move Mesa County Public Health into a Tier 3 or 4 for case investigation and case investigation support from CDPHE.
- Implement just-in-time training for additional contact tracers.
- Use different modes of communication besides phone calls such as text messages.
- Have a draft letter ready which will address exposure notification, instructions for quarantine/isolation, and testing.

Resources

- Place additional infoline staff on stand-by and activate as the situation escalates.
- Place additional disease investigators and contact tracers on stand-by and activate as the situation escalates.
- Continue to recruit temporary employees to perform case investigators and contact tracing.
- Reassign current public health staff to do contact investigation and contact tracing.
- Reassign additional County employees from other departments to perform case investigation and contact tracing.
- Place Alternate Care Facilities (AFC) on stand-by for potential surge and activate as the situation escalates.
- Place EMS on stand-by for potential surge and activate as the situation escalates.
- Ensure hospitals have adequate testing supplies.

Metric #7: Documented Surge-Capacity Plan for Case Investigation and Contact Tracing

LPHA has a documented surge-capacity plan that they can investigate and contact trace their share, based on population, of our state's overall 500 cases per day goal. This means they need a plan to investigate and contact trace up to 8.7 cases per 100,000 population per day.

What is the current status of this metric?

- In a 12-hour day, Mesa County Public Health can handle 12 new case investigations (four epidemiologists, three cases each over 12 hours), and talk to 840 associated contacts.
- Over the course of COVID-19 Mesa County has trained 31 people (21 employees, 10 community members) to assist with contact tracing.
- Mesa County Public Health has the capacity to expand to 6 case investigators and 50 contact tracers allowing us to reach a total of 1,200 people in one day.
- We have developed a case investigation and contact tracing just-in-time training allowing us to staff-up as demand arises.

Metric #8: Documented Strategies to Offer Testing to Close Contacts

LPHA has documented strategies in place to offer testing to close contacts of outbreak-associated cases.

Mesa County contact investigators discuss testing options with every contact of a positive case. They have the ability to schedule an appointment at our drive-thru facility or at the pediatric site.



P.O. Box 20,000 544 Rood Avenue Grand Junction, Colorado 81502-5010 mcbocc@mesacounty.us

August 18, 2020

Jill Hunsaker Ryan
Executive Director
Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
4300 Cherry Creek South Drive
Denver, CO 80246

RE: Mesa County Mitigation and Containment Plan

Dear Director Ryan,

Mesa County is respectfully requesting approval of Mesa County Public Health's mitigation and containment plan that will allow Mesa County to transition to the Protect Our Neighbors phase, which best meets our community's needs. The course of the pandemic in Mesa County and our robust infrastructure to quickly identify, respond, and mitigate Coronavirus cases and outbreaks justifies our request to resume an increased level of normal operations.

Since our initial variance was approved on April 28, 2020, we have continued to expand our testing and contract casing capacity. Mesa County developed a just-in-time training for contact tracing and is actively recruiting and training volunteers should a surge occur. We have tripled our testing capacity at our drive-through site, and through partner sampling; to date, we have collected more than 16,000 samples and ample testing kits. We've had field teams working with industries to ensure compliance with Social Distancing requirements; to-date, we have visited more than 500 facilities. Our outreach team also meets with long-term care facilities on a weekly basis to provide technical assistance and resources as needed. Mesa County Public Health has established itself as the trusted source of information; our information line has received nearly 13,000 calls through the course of the pandemic, and our website has had over 650,000 unique views. Mesa County Public Health a dedicated 24/7 line for providers and medical professionals to ensure timely notification of potential cases.

We have reviewed the mitigation and containment plan created by Mesa County Public Health, understanding that Mesa County's COVID-19 numbers could, at any time, exceed what is allowable as outlined by the CDPHE's Protect Our Neighbor metrics. As the elected officials

representing Mesa County residents, we believe that Mesa County Public Health's mitigation and containment plan provides the guidance necessary for addressing any potential surge in cases and/or hospitalizations. On behalf of the Mesa County Board of County Commissioners, we agree with and support the Mesa County Mitigation and Containment Plan as submitted. We will support Mesa County Public Health's Executive Director, Jeff Kuhr, in meeting the thresholds outlined in the Protect Our Neighbors certification form. The Mesa County Board of County Commissioners is committed to utilizing Mesa County tools and resources to encourage compliance with the containment plan and public health orders, taking appropriate enforcement actions when needed.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,



Scott McInnis, Chair
Board of County Commissioners



Rose Pugliese
Commissioner



John Justman
Commissioner



**MESA COUNTY
PUBLIC HEALTH**
Working Together for a Healthy Community

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August 21, 2020

Jill Hunsaker Ryan
Executive Director
Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
4300 Cherry Creek South Drive
Denver, CO 80246

RE: Mesa County Protect Our Neighbors

Dear Director Ryan,

Enclosed is Mesa County Public Health's (MCPH) mitigation and containment plan to enter the Protect Our Neighbors phase in Mesa County. Mesa County's low disease transmission rate, combined with our demonstrated capacity for testing, case investigation, contact tracing, and outbreak response makes us well suited to transition to this phase.

MCPH has an established track record with our previously granted variances to manage all activities at 50 percent of pre-pandemic capacity, limiting gatherings and events to no more than 175 people in one setting at one time.

Since Mesa County's first case in early March, we have worked closely with our elected officials, emergency management, hospitals, and law enforcement to ensure our community has a coordinated response should a surge in COVID-19 cases occur. The included letters of attestation exhibit the support of these partner agencies as well as their commitment to supporting the containment plan, working with MCPH to meet required thresholds, and utilizing their agency's tools and resources to encourage compliance with enclosed containment plan and public health orders. Our health care system confirms they have the bed capacity to manage a 20% surge in hospital admissions or patient transfers, and have a two-week supply of PPE available to handle an increase in COVID-19 cases, should that occur.

We appreciate your consideration of our request and look forward to a favorable response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jeff Kuhr".

Jeff Kuhr, PhD
Executive Director

August 20, 2020

Jill Hunsaker Ryan
Executive Director
Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
4300 Cherry Creek South Drive
Denver, CO 80246

Dear Director Ryan,

On behalf of the Mesa County health care system, we offer our support for Mesa County Public Health's mitigation and containment plan for the Protect Our Neighbors phase. There is a strong partnership among our three hospital systems, and our medical surge plan incorporates the capacities of each of those hospitals.

Data supports a continued reopening process with only four current hospitalizations. The current two-week positivity rate is well below the 15% positivity threshold requirements of variances previously approved for Mesa County at 1.76%. To date, COVID-19 has not stressed our medical facilities or resources; we feel confident we have the capacity to continue to manage the progression of COVID-19.

We have reviewed the mitigation and containment plan created by Mesa County Public Health, and understand that Mesa County's COVID-19 numbers could, at any time, exceed what is allowable as outlined by the CDPHE's Protect Our Neighbor metrics. Mesa County Public Health's mitigation and containment plan provides the guidance necessary for addressing any potential surge in cases and/or hospitalizations. On behalf of St. Mary's Medical Center, Community Hospital, and Colorado Canyons Hospital & Medical Center, we agree with and support the Mesa County Mitigation and Containment Plan as submitted. We will support Mesa County Public Health's Executive Director, Jeff Kuhr, in meeting the thresholds outlined in the Protect Our Neighbors certification form. The Mesa County health care system is committed to utilizing Mesa County tools and resources to encourage compliance with the containment plan and public health orders, taking appropriate enforcement actions when needed.

We believe that strict adherence to outlined protocols, as well as the continual monitoring of data through testing and contact investigations, will enable our community to continue to safely reopen in the Protect Our Neighbors Phase. By supporting the attached mitigation and containment plan, we confirm that our medical centers have the bed capacity to manage a 20% surge in hospital admissions or patient transfers, and have a two-week supply of PPE available to handle an increase in COVID-19 cases, should that occur.

We look forward to your favorable response to our request.

Sincerely,



Bryan Johnson
President
SCL Health St. Mary's Medical Center



Chris Thomas
President & CEO
Community Hospital



Korrey Klein, MD
President & CEO
Colorado Canyons Hospital & Medical Center



Mesa County Sheriff's Office

Sheriff Matt Lewis



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August 18, 2020

Jill Hunsaker Ryan
Executive Director
Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
4300 Cherry Creek South Drive
Denver, CO 80246

RE: Mesa County Mitigation and Containment Plan

Dear Director Ryan,

On behalf of Mesa County Emergency Services, please accept my letter of support for Mesa County Public Health's (MCPH) mitigation and containment plan for the Protect Our Neighbors phase. Mesa County's metrics are well below the threshold requirements of:

- low disease transmission levels,
- sufficient PPE supply
- MCPH capacity for testing, case investigation, contact tracing, and outbreak response,
- stable COVID-19 hospitalizations and hospital capacity to meet patient needs and handle surge for intensive care.

As the Emergency Services Director for Mesa County, I have worked closely with MCPH to ensure our community is prepared across sectors to address a potential surge in COVID-19 cases. Since early March, we have been in close contact with elected officials, our hospital executives, and local law enforcement to ensure that we are working in a coordinated manner to contain disease transmission in Mesa County. Our low positivity rates illustrate the success of this partnership.

I have reviewed the mitigation and containment plan created by Mesa County Public Health, understanding that Mesa County's COVID-19 numbers could, at any time, exceed what is allowable as outlined by the CDPHE's Protect Our Neighbor metrics. I feel Mesa County Public Health's mitigation and containment plan provides the guidance necessary for addressing any potential surge in cases and/or hospitalizations. On behalf of Mesa County Emergency Services, I agree with and support the Mesa County Mitigation and Containment Plan as submitted. I will support Mesa County Public Health's Executive Director, Jeff Kuhr, in meeting the thresholds outlined in the Protect Our Neighbors certification form. Mesa County Emergency Services is committed to utilizing available tools and resources to encourage compliance with the containment plan and public health orders, taking appropriate enforcement actions when needed.

Mesa County's low virus levels and strong public health, health care, and emergency response systems make us well prepared to enter the Protect Our Neighbors phase. We look forward to your favorable response to our request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Andrew Martsolf'.

Andrew Martsolf
Emergency Services Director
Mesa County Sheriff's Office

Mesa County Sheriff's Office

Sheriff Matt Lewis



215 Rice Street
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August 18, 2020

Jill Hunsaker Ryan
Executive Director
Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
4300 Cherry Creek South Drive
Denver, CO 80246

RE: Mesa County Mitigation and Containment Plan

Dear Director Ryan,

On behalf of the Mesa County Sheriff's Office, please accept my letter of support for Mesa County Public Health's (MCPH) mitigation and containment plan for the Protect Our Neighbors phase.

In coordination with our Emergency Services Director, we have worked closely with MCPH to ensure our community is prepared across sectors to address a potential surge in COVID-19 cases. Since early March, we have been in close contact with elected officials, our hospital executives, and local law enforcement agencies to ensure that we are working in a coordinated manner to contain disease transmission in Mesa County. Our low positivity rates illustrate the success of this partnership.

I have reviewed the mitigation and containment plan created by Mesa County Public Health, understanding that Mesa County's COVID-19 numbers could, at any time, exceed what is allowable as outlined by the CDPHE's Protect Our Neighbor metrics. Mesa County Public Health's mitigation and containment plan provides the guidance necessary for addressing any potential surge in cases and/or hospitalizations. On behalf of the Mesa County Sheriff's Office, I agree with and support the Mesa County Mitigation and Containment Plan as submitted. I will support Mesa County Public Health's Executive Director, Jeff Kuhr, in meeting the thresholds outlined in the Protect Our Neighbors certification form. The Mesa County Sheriff's Office is committed to utilizing available tools and resources to encourage compliance with the containment plan and public health orders, taking appropriate enforcement actions when needed.

I look forward to your favorable response to our request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Matt Lewis". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Matt Lewis
Sheriff

August 19, 2020

Jill Hunsaker Ryan
Executive Director
Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
4300 Cherry Creek South Drive
Denver, CO 80246

RE: Mesa County Mitigation and Containment Plan

Dear Director Ryan,

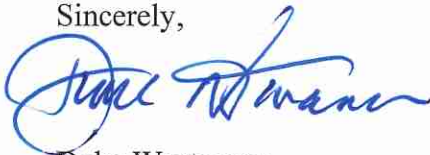
On behalf of the City of Grand Junction, please accept our letter supporting Mesa County Public Health's (MCPH) mitigation and containment plan for the *Protect Our Neighbors* phase. Partnerships and intergovernmental relationships such as these are important to the City, as identified in the City Council's adopted Strategic Plan. We believe that this is critical to effectively addressing the COVID-19 pandemic in our community.

Since the onset of COVID-19 in Mesa County, our city manager, police chief, and fire chief have worked closely with MCPH to address a potential surge in COVID-19 cases and to contain disease transmission in Mesa County. Our relatively low positivity rates illustrate the success of this partnership.

City Council has reviewed the mitigation and containment plan created by Mesa County Public Health, understanding that Mesa County's COVID-19 numbers could, at any time, exceed what is allowable as outlined by the CDPHE's Protect Our Neighbor metrics. Mesa County Public Health's mitigation and containment plan provides the guidance necessary for addressing any potential surge in cases and/or hospitalizations. On behalf of the City of Grand Junction, I agree with and support the Mesa County Mitigation and Containment Plan as submitted. We will support Mesa County Public Health's Executive Director, Jeff Kuhr, in meeting the thresholds outlined in the Protect Our Neighbors certification form.

I look forward to your favorable response to our request.

Sincerely,



Duke Wortmann
Mayor

August 18, 2020

Jill Hunsaker Ryan
Executive Director
Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
4300 Cherry Creek South Drive
Denver, CO 80246

RE: Mesa County Mitigation and Containment Plan

Dear Director Ryan,

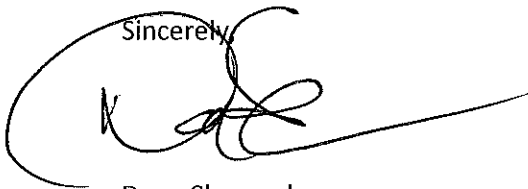
On behalf of the Grand Junction Police Department, I offer my strong support of Mesa County Public Health's (MCPH) mitigation and containment plan for the Protect Our Neighbors phase. Through our mission, we are committed to enhancing community safety, reducing fear of crime, and elevating the quality of life through partnerships and innovative policing initiatives. This commitment drives our response to the COVID-19 pandemic in Mesa County.

Since the onset of COVID-19 in Mesa County, the Grand Junction Police Department has worked closely with Mesa County Emergency Services, local law enforcement agencies, and MCPH to address a potential surge in COVID-19 cases and to contain disease transmission in Mesa County. The systems we put in place have resulted in a coordinated effort that continues to keep Mesa County residents safe.

I have reviewed the mitigation and containment plan created by Mesa County Public Health, understanding that Mesa County's COVID-19 numbers could, at any time, exceed what is allowable as outlined by the CDPHE's Protect Our Neighbor metrics. Mesa County Public Health's mitigation and containment plan provides the guidance necessary for addressing any potential surge in cases and/or hospitalizations. On behalf of the Grand Junction Police Department, I agree with and support the Mesa County Mitigation and Containment Plan as submitted. I will support Mesa County Public Health's Executive Director, Jeff Kuhr, in meeting the thresholds outlined in the Protect Our Neighbors certification form. The Grand Junction Police Department is committed to utilizing available tools and resources to encourage compliance with the containment plan and public health orders, taking appropriate enforcement actions when needed.

I look forward to your favorable response to our request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Doug Shoemaker', written over the word 'Sincerely,'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Doug Shoemaker
Chief of Police



FRUITA

COLORADO

August 19, 2020

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Human Resources
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Public Works
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Recreation Dept.
970-858-0360

Jill Hunsaker Ryan
Executive Director
Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
4300 Cherry Creek South Drive
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RE: Mesa County Mitigation and Containment Plan

Dear Director Ryan,

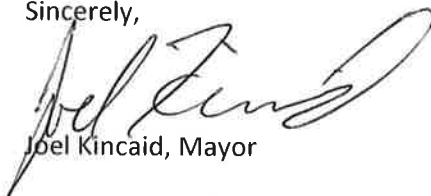
On behalf of the City of Fruita, I write to you in strong support of Mesa County Public Health's (MCPH) mitigation and containment plan for the Protect Our Neighbors phase. The health and safety of our community is a top priority. We believe MCPH, through the input of many community partners, has developed a plan that will continue to keep our residents safe and allow for the continued reopening that is vital for our local economy.

Since the onset of COVID-19 in Mesa County, our city manager, law enforcement, and emergency responders have worked closely with MCPH to address a potential surge in COVID-19 cases and to contain disease transmission in Mesa County. Our low positivity rates illustrate the success of this partnership.

I have reviewed the mitigation and containment plan created by Mesa County Public Health, understanding that Mesa County's COVID-19 numbers could, at any time, exceed what is allowable as outlined by the CDPHE's Protect Our Neighbor metrics. Mesa County Public Health's mitigation and containment plan provides the guidance necessary for addressing any potential surge in cases and/or hospitalizations. On behalf of the City of Fruita, I agree with and support the Mesa County Mitigation and Containment Plan as submitted. I will support Mesa County Public Health's Executive Director, Jeff Kuhr, in meeting the thresholds outlined in the Protect Our Neighbors certification form. The Mesa County Sheriff's Office is committed to utilizing available tools and resources to encourage compliance with the containment plan and public health orders, taking appropriate enforcement actions when needed.

Thank you for your consideration of our request. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Joel Kincaid, Mayor

Honor the Past – Envision the Future **FRUITA**



FRUITA
COLORADO

POLICE DEPARTMENT

157 S Mesa St, Fruita, CO 81521
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August 18, 2020

Jill Hunsaker Ryan
Executive Director
Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
4300 Cherry Creek South Drive
Denver, CO 80246

RE: Mesa County Mitigation and Containment Plan

Dear Director Ryan,

The Fruita Police Department offers our strong support of Mesa County Public Health's (MCPH) mitigation and containment plan for the Protect Our Neighbors phase.

Since the onset of COVID-19 in early March, the Fruita Police Department has worked closely with Mesa County Emergency Services, local law enforcement agencies, and MCPH to address a potential surge in COVID-19 cases and to contain disease transmission in Mesa County. The results of timely planning and coordination have continued to keep COVID-19 transmission rates low while keeping residents safe.

I have reviewed the mitigation and containment plan created by Mesa County Public Health, understanding that Mesa County's COVID-19 numbers could, at any time, exceed what is allowable as outlined by the CDPHE's Protect Our Neighbor metrics. Mesa County Public Health's mitigation and containment plan provides the guidance necessary for addressing any potential surge in cases and/or hospitalizations. On behalf of the Fruita Police Department, I agree with and support the Mesa County Mitigation and Containment Plan as submitted. I will support Mesa County Public Health's Executive Director, Jeff Kuhr, in meeting the thresholds outlined in the Protect Our Neighbors certification form. The Fruita Police Department is committed to utilizing available tools and resources to encourage compliance with the containment plan and public health orders, taking appropriate enforcement actions when needed.

I look forward to your favorable response to our request.

Sincerely,

David E. Krouse
Chief of Police



Town of Palisade

August 18, 2020

Jill Hunsaker Ryan
Executive Director
Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
4300 Cherry Creek South Drive
Denver, CO 80246

RE: Mesa County Mitigation and Containment Plan

Dear Director Ryan,

On behalf of the Palisade Board of Trustees, I write to you in support of Mesa County Public Health's (MCPH) mitigation and containment plan for the Protect Our Neighbors phase.

Since the onset of COVID-19 in the Grand Valley, the Town of Palisade has worked closely with MCPH to address a potential surge in COVID-19 cases and to contain disease transmission in Mesa County. Our low hospitalizations and positivity rates indicate this coordinated effort is working and continues to keep our residents safe.

I have reviewed the mitigation and containment plan created by Mesa County Public Health, understanding that Mesa County's COVID-19 numbers could, at any time, exceed what is allowable as outlined by the CDPHE's Protect Our Neighbor metrics. Mesa County Public Health's mitigation and containment plan provides the guidance necessary for addressing any potential surge in cases and/or hospitalizations. On behalf of the Town of Palisade, I agree with and support the Mesa County Mitigation and Containment Plan as submitted. We will support Mesa County Public Health's Executive Director, Jeff Kuhr, in meeting the thresholds outlined in the Protect Our Neighbors certification form. The Town of Palisade is committed to utilizing available tools and resources to encourage compliance with the containment plan and public health orders, taking appropriate enforcement actions when needed.

The Town of Palisade appreciates your efforts to protect the health of Colorado residents. We look forward to your favorable response.

Sincerely,

Greg Mikolai

Mayor, Greg Mikolai



175 East 3rd Street
P.O. Box 128
Palisade, CO 81526-0128

Phone: (970) 464-5601
Fax: (970) 464-5347
www.townofpalisade.org

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Jill Hunsaker Ryan
Executive Director
Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
4300 Cherry Creek South Drive
Denver, CO 80246

RE: Mesa County Mitigation and Containment Plan

Dear Director Ryan,

As Chief of Police for the Palisade Police Department, I write to you in support of Mesa County Public Health's (MCPH) mitigation and containment plan for the Protect Our Neighbors phase.

Since the onset of COVID-19 in our community, the Palisade Police Department has worked alongside area emergency services, law enforcement agencies, and MCPH to address a potential surge in COVID-19 cases and to contain disease transmission in Mesa County. Our coordinated approach continues to protect the health of residents through low hospitalizations and transmission rates.

I have reviewed the mitigation and containment plan created by Mesa County Public Health, understanding that Mesa County's COVID-19 numbers could, at any time, exceed what is allowable as outlined by the CDPHE's Protect Our Neighbor metrics. Mesa County Public Health's mitigation and containment plan provides the guidance necessary for addressing any potential surge in cases and/or hospitalizations. On behalf of the Palisade Police Department, I agree with and support the Mesa County Mitigation and Containment Plan as submitted. I will support Mesa County Public Health's Executive Director, Jeff Kuhr, in meeting the thresholds outlined in the Protect Our Neighbors certification form. The Palisade Police Department is committed to utilizing available tools and resources to encourage compliance with the containment plan and public health orders, taking appropriate enforcement actions when needed.

Thank you for your efforts and your consideration of Mesa County's request. We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

Deb Funston
Chief of Police



COLORADO
Department of Public
Health & Environment

September 8, 2020

John Justman, Commissioner
Scott McInnis, Commissioner
Rose Pugilese, Commissioner
Mesa County Board of Commissioners
via email

Jeff Kuhr
Public Health Director
Mesa County Health Department
via email

RE: Mesa County Protect Our Neighbors Certification Approval

Dear Commissioners and Director Kuhr:

Thank you for applying to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) to certify Mesa County to move into Protect Our Neighbors (PON) status in accordance with the Governor's **Executive Order D 2020 127**, as amended and extended, and **Public Health Order (PHO) 20-32**, as amended and extended. Certification of PON status is approved for Mesa County effective today, September 8, 2020. Below is some additional information concerning the county's PON responsibilities.

PON certification requires the achievement of 8 metrics as outlined in **PHO 20-32**. Mesa has demonstrated compliance with all 8 metrics; thus, certification of PON status is warranted. PON status authorizes the county to open all sectors and activities at 50% capacity, with the person caps set at 500; as such, no previously issued variances remain in effect. Mesa will remain in PON status for so long as compliance with these metrics is maintained. If the county falls out of compliance with one or more of the metrics, that triggers a three week period during which time the county must implement mitigation strategies to bring the metric(s) back into compliance. If at the end of the 3 week period one or more of the metrics remain out of compliance, county consultation with CDPHE is required to determine whether ongoing certification in PON should continue with the current or new mitigation activities, or if a reduction to the Safer at Home standards should occur. If the county moves out of PON status, reattainment of this status will require 3 continuous weeks of meeting the 8 metrics, a request from the county to move back to the PON level, and approval by CDPHE.

Additionally, the county has an ongoing responsibility to educate its residents, businesses and visitors within the county's jurisdiction concerning the requirements of the executive and public health orders. Counties are expected to implement enforcement activities to maintain

Mesa County PON Certification
September 8, 2020

compliance with these orders, as well as take the lead on conducting timely case and outbreak investigations, which may include issuing isolation and quarantine orders. If the county is unable to conduct these investigation and enforcement activities, the county's PON certification may be rescinded.

Congratulations on attaining PON status for Mesa County and protecting the health of your community by effectively managing COVID-19 cases and minimizing the spread of disease. We wish you continued success in this important work, and stand ready to partner with you in our collective efforts to flatten the COVID-19 curve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jill Hunsaker Ryan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jill Hunsaker Ryan, MPH
Executive Director