

**SAN JUAN COUNTY, COLORADO  
LOCAL DISASTER EMERGENCY DECLARATION**

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is a highly contagious virus that originated in China and has 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 in cases involving the elderly and immune-compromised persons; 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 January 31, 2020, the United States Department of Health and Human Services declared the virus a public health emergency; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the Governor of the State of Colorado declared a state of emergency in response to the presence of COVID-19 in Colorado; and

WHEREAS on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared a national emergency related to COVID-19 to allow additional federal resources to be made available to state and local governments; and

WHEREAS, cases of COVID-19 are growing exponentially in Colorado; and

WHEREAS, public health experts anticipate that due to the highly contagious nature of the virus, and because numerous visitors from around the world visit and travel through San Juan County on a daily basis, San Juan County could see cases of the virus; and

WHEREAS, analysis of outbreaks in other communities indicates that the most effective means of slowing and limiting the spread of the disease in order to not overwhelm limited local medical facilities is to practice "social distancing" and voluntary isolation to limit unnecessary contact among members of the community; and that if immediate preventive action is not taken, local medical facilities and emergency responders will be overwhelmed and unable to meet the needs of the community related to the virus or other illnesses; and

WHEREAS, the Center for Disease Control indicates that the most effective way to prevent rapid spread of the virus is to practice good personal hygiene such as frequent and thorough washing of hands and sanitizing of work spaces, as well as practicing "social distancing" and to eliminate all unnecessary contact between members of the community; 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 effect of a declaration of local disaster emergency is to activate the response and recovery aspects of any and all applicable local and inter-jurisdictional 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, all three commissioners have the authority individually to declare an emergency, with ratification to follow within seven (7) days at a regular meeting of the Board of County Commissioners, C.R.S. 24-33.5-709(2):

**NOW THEREFORE LET IT BE DECLARED BY THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR OF SAN JUAN COUNTY:**

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

THAT, local emergency resources may be overwhelmed and requests for aid may be needed.

THAT, the local Emergency Operations Center shall be opened and utilized by San Juan County as the central clearinghouse for resources and information within the County;

THAT, community leaders are encouraged to cancel or postpone all non-essential meetings and gatherings; and

THAT, local businesses are encouraged to allow employees to work remotely wherever practical and possible; and


THAT, all residents of San Juan County are encouraged to remain at home whenever possible, and

THAT, this Declaration shall be promptly filed with the San Juan 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 Commissioners for San Juan County.

THAT, this Declaration is necessary for the public health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the County of San Juan, State of Colorado.

Declared this 18th day of March, 2020 at Silverton, Colorado

  
William A. Tookey  
San Juan County Administrator