

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Routt County Declares Local Emergency in Response to COVID-19**

March 13, 2020 - Routt County has filed a local disaster emergency declaration with the State of Colorado in response to the arrival of COVID-19 in the county. The declaration is an administrative tool that can help facilitate access to funding and other resources.

The declaration will be in effect until March 20, 2020 unless extended by an action of the Board of County Commissioners. The board will consider extending the time frame during its regular meeting on March 17, which begins at 10:30 a.m.

Routt County officials say it was important to file the declaration as soon as possible, because some resources are triggered based on the date a declaration was put in place.

Emergency declarations are a typical response to COVID-19 arriving in a community. States, counties and cities across the country are using them to ensure appropriate resources are available for response and recovery.

“While there are likely to be more cases of COVID-19 in Routt County, the declaration does not mean we think Routt County is any less safe than other communities impacted by COVID-19,” said Tim Corrigan, chair of the Routt County Board of Commissioners. “This is an important step to ensure that we have all the tools we need to manage the situation and ensure public health and safety.”

Both the State of Colorado and the Federal government have issued emergency declarations in response to the virus as well.

Those with questions about COVID-19 can call the CO HELP Hotline at 1-877-462-2911. Current recommendations and updates on COVID-19 can be found at <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/2019-novel-coronavirus>.

