

**DECLARATION OF LOCAL HEALTH DISASTER
EMERGENCY**

WHEREAS, C.R.S. §24-33.5-709 authorizes the principal executive officer of a political subdivision to declare a local disaster; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is a contagious virus that is detrimental to Montezuma County, Colorado; and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization declared on January 30, 2020 that the worldwide outbreak of COVID-19 is public health emergency of international concern, and declared it a global pandemic on March 11, 2020. On January 31, 2020, the United States Department of Health and Human Services declared the virus a public health emergency and the President of the United States declared a national emergency on March 13, 2020. The Governor of Colorado issued an Executive Order declaring a state of disaster emergency due to the presence of COVID-19 in Colorado on March 11, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment has confirmed cases of COVID-19 within the State of Colorado and noted its contagiousness; and

WHEREAS, the effects of the virus may result in illness or death and affect the functioning of our community's health, education, and economy; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to CRS §§24-33.5-709, 25-1-506(3) and 25-1-509, the presence of COVID-19 in Montezuma County is an imminent threat to the health and wellbeing of residents and visitors, requiring emergency mitigation; and

WHEREAS, the cost and magnitude of responding to and recovery from the impact of COVID-19 is far in excess of the County Health Department's resources; and

WHEREAS, the County Health Officer consents to this Declaration of a local disaster; and

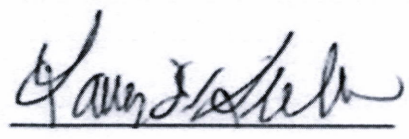
WHEREAS, the County Health Officer asserts that this Declaration is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health, safety and welfare of people in the county.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. Montezuma County declares that there is a local health disaster emergency in the County, and that the occurrence or imminent threat of widespread or severe injury or loss of life or property resulting from the COVID-19 virus requires emergency mitigation.
2. The effect of this declaration of a health disaster emergency shall be to activate the response and recovery aspects of any and all applicable local and inter-jurisdictional disaster emergency plans and to authorize the furnishing of aid and assistance under such plans.
3. This declaration will be posted on the County website and provided to the press, the Department of Emergency Management, and filed with County Clerk and Recorder.

Adopted this and effective this 18th, day of March, 2020.


County Clerk and Recorder


Larry Don Suckla
Chair of Montezuma County BOCC

