

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
COUNTY OF HINSDALE, STATE OF COLORADO**

RESOLUTION NO. 5, SERIES 2020

**FIRST EXTENSION OF THE HINSDALE COUNTY COVID-19
LOCAL DISASTER EMERGENCY**

WHEREAS, as of March 14, 2020, Gunnison County, Hinsdale County's neighboring county to the north, has six confirmed cases of the COVID-19 virus and public health officials anticipate that, due to the contagiousness of the illness, over the coming weeks or months, Gunnison County will likely see additional cases of the virus and its transmission to residents of Hinsdale County is likely; and

WHEREAS, on March 14, 2020, due to the likely transmission of the COVID-19 virus to a resident or residents of Hinsdale County, and pursuant to the authority provided by C.R.S. § 24-33.5-709(1), the Interim Hinsdale County Administrator declared a local disaster emergency, as the cost and magnitude of planning for, responding to and recovering from the impact of a COVID-19 outbreak is likely in excess of Hinsdale County's available resources; 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 conditions that spurred the Interim County Administrator to declare the local disaster emergency on March 14, 2020 have not abated; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to C.R.S. § 24-33.5-709(2), "[t]he effect of a declaration of local disaster emergency is to activate the response and recovery aspects of any and all applicable local and interjurisdictional disaster and emergency plans and to authorize the furnishing of aid and assistance under such plans"; and

WHEREAS, defining clear roles for and direction to those responding to the local disaster emergency and operating under Hinsdale County's emergency operations plan will allow a more effective response.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Hinsdale, State of Colorado that:

1. The Hinsdale County Board of County Commissioners ("Board") confirms, determines, and declares that the potential presence of the COVID-19 virus within Hinsdale County is an imminent threat to Hinsdale County's residents and visitors.

2. This imminent threat is due to the consistent increase in COVID-19 cases in neighboring Gunnison County and the State of Colorado.

3. This imminent threat of COVID-19 constitutes a local disaster emergency that warrants continuing the emergency preparedness, response and furnishing aid and assistance to portions of the community to protect them from infection and to provide aid, if and when an infection occurs.

4. The Board recognizes that the Silver Thread Public Health District (“STPHD”), by and through its director and in coordination with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, which is leading the statewide response to COVID-19, is currently incident command for the response to COVID-19 within Hinsdale County. STPHD has authority under state law to issue orders and guidance and take other actions as necessary to protect the public health, safety, and welfare. The Board directs County staff to take such actions to effectuate the orders and guidance of STPHD as necessary and in consultation with the Board where appropriate.

5. The Board recognizes that the Sheriff of Hinsdale County is a constitutional officer charged with maintaining public order within Hinsdale County and is authorized under state law to enforce the orders of STPHD as well other governmental directives related to disasters and emergencies, all as reasonably necessary to protect the health, safety and welfare of the public. The Board requests the Sheriff to enforce the orders of STPHD and continue taking other actions as necessary to ensure the health, safety and welfare of the public during this local disaster emergency.

6. The Emergency Manager for Hinsdale County is coordinating the countywide response to the disaster, including with the Town of Lake City, first responders, healthcare and emergency medical services providers, providers of critical infrastructure for the community, and other providers of important and necessary services to the public. The Board directs that the Emergency Manager continue to work closely with these partners to ensure a coordinated response throughout the County and to continue to utilize Hinsdale County staff and other resources as necessary for an effective response, in consultation with the Board as appropriate.

7. The Interim Hinsdale County Administrator manages the general operations of the County and serves as the County’s liaison to the Town of Lake City and other County partners. The Board directs the Interim County Administrator to continue coordinating with internal and external partners and to direct County staff as appropriate and necessary to address the local disaster emergency. The Board also directs the Interim County Administrator to work with County elected officials and department heads to address staff illness, sick time, working remotely, and similar topics to ensure the continuity of operations within the County, in consultation with the Board as appropriate.

8. This local disaster emergency will continue indefinitely until rescinded by

the Board.

9. This Resolution and Declaration shall be promptly filed with the Hinsdale County Clerk and Recorder, the Hinsdale County Office of Emergency Management and the Colorado Office of Emergency Management.


10. This Resolution and Declaration is necessary for the public health, safety and welfare of the citizens and visitors of the County of Hinsdale, State of Colorado.

INTRODUCED by Commissioner Kristie Borchers, seconded by Commissioner Sara Gutterman, and passed this 18th day of March, 2020.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
COUNTY OF HINSDALE, STATE OF COLORADO**

By: 
Susan Thompson, Chair

ATTEST:


Jean Roberts, Hinsdale County Clerk

