

**Moffat County Board of Public Health
221 W Victory Way Suite 130 Craig, CO 81625**

March 22, 2020

In attendance: Ray Beck, Chair; Don Cook, Board Member; Donald Broom, Board Member; Erin Miller, Deputy Clerk & Recorder; Rebecca Tyree; Olivia Scheele.

**Call to Order
Emergency County Board of Public Health Meeting**

10:31 am

Beck called the emergency Board of Public Health meeting to order.

County Attorney – Rebecca Tyree

Tyree presented and read aloud **Resolution 2020-32 Public Health Agency Order – A Temporary Order Closing County Offices in the Moffat County Courthouse to the Public and Setting Forth Protective Measures for the Public and for the Employees of Moffat County** (see attached). Tyree read each paragraph to the board and Public Health Nurse, Olivia Scheele, asking for any changes or suggestions to the wording of the resolution. There was also discussion about policy regarding employees that had been out of the northwest Colorado Public Health region (Routt, Moffat and Rio Blanco counties), especially by public transportation. Any employee that have left that region in the last seven days must self-quarantine for fourteen days to monitor for symptoms of COVID-19 upon return, before coming back to work. After the full document was read and changes noted, a recess was taken so Tyree and Scheele could adjourn to Tyree's office and make the necessary revisions.

1:07 pm

Meeting reconvened.

After making the noted changes, Tyree and Scheele presented the revised document to the Board.

Cook made a motion to approve **Resolution 2020-32 Public Health Agency Order**, effective March 23, 2020. Broom seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

The Board decided that the resolution should be sent out as soon as possible to all employees, the media, and be posted on the County website and Facebook page, so County residents would be aware that County Courthouse offices will be closed to the public beginning Monday, March 23.

There was additional discussion about the language for the employee travel policy portion of the Order.

Cook made a motion due to the travel implications related to the spread of the COVID-19 Coronavirus, the Board is instructing employees who have traveled in the last ten days to self-quarantine for fourteen days before returning to work. Broom seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:25 pm

Meeting Adjourned

Submitted by: Erin Miller, Deputy County Clerk and Recorder

Approved by:

Ray Beck

Ray Beck

Sam Broom

Approved on:

April 14, 2020

Attest by:

Erin Miller



MOFFAT COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH AGENCY ORDER # 2020 - 32
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A TEMPORARY ORDER CLOSING COUNTY OFFICES IN THE MOFFAT COUNTY COURTHOUSE TO THE PUBLIC AND SETTING FORTH PROTECTIVE MEASURES FOR THE PUBLIC AND FOR THE EMPLOYEES OF MOFFAT COUNTY

Pursuant to Colorado Revised Statutes §§ 25-1-506, 25-1-508, 25-1-509, and other applicable authority, the Moffat County Board of Health and the Moffat County Public Health Director have powers and duties to develop and promote the public policies needed to secure the conditions necessary for a healthy community. In the event of a public health emergency, the Moffat County Public Health Agency issues orders and adopts rules consistent with the laws and rules of the state as the Public Health Director may deem necessary for the proper exercise of the powers and duties vested in or imposed upon the agency or county board.

The Moffat County Public Health Agency has the duty to investigate and control the causes of epidemic or communicable diseases and conditions affecting public health and to establish, maintain, and enforce isolation and quarantine, and in pursuance thereof, and for this purpose only, to exercise physical control over property and over the persons of the people within the jurisdiction of the agency as the agency may find necessary for the protection of the public health.

The Moffat County Board of Health recognizes the escalating threat to residents and employees of Moffat County from the Coronavirus (“COVID-19”), and based on recommendations from the Moffat County Public Health Director and consistent with recommendations from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (“CDPHE”), this Public Health Order is enacted to protect health and safety in Moffat County.

FINDINGS:

1. Coronavirus Disease (“COVID-19”) was first detected in Wuhan, China in late 2019, and since then has spread to over 60 countries including the United States. As of March 21, 2020, the CDPHE Colorado Case Summary, current through March 20, 2020, 4, 550 people in the state have been tested and there are 475 known positive cases of COVID-19 in Colorado in 29 out of 64 counties. There is an expectation that the virus will spread.
2. While Moffat County has not yet identified a case of COVID-19, Moffat County medical experts are actively testing for COVID-19 within the county according to specific testing criteria.
3. COVID-19 is a respiratory illness transmitted like other respiratory illness through person-to-person contact or by contact with surfaces contaminated with the virus. Persons infected with COVID-19 may become symptomatic anywhere from two to fourteen days after exposure. Symptoms include fever, cough or shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, and fatigue.
4. Individuals with serious chronic health conditions and older adults are most at risk for becoming ill with this disease.
5. The Moffat County Public Health Director and the Moffat County Medical Officer

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report that expert, peer-reviewed sources indicate that at this time, an effective way to combat COVID-19 is with significant travel restrictions, social distancing, quarantine and isolation to reduce transmission, in addition to rigorous handwashing and hygiene practice.

6. On March 10, 2020, the Governor of Colorado declared a State of Emergency related to the presence of COVID-19 in the State. CDPHE has confirmed that COVID-19 continues to spread throughout the State of Colorado.

7. On March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared a National Emergency due to COVID-19.

8. A significant number of Coloradans are at risk of serious health complications, including death, from COVID-19.

9. Limiting the number of people in Moffat County who may gather together directly to ten people or less and requiring those who meet in such groups to keep six (6) feet away from each other is necessary for the protection of public health. The age, condition, and health of a significant portion of the population in Moffat County places it at risk of serious health complications, including death, from COVID-19. Although most individuals who contract COVID-19 do not become seriously ill, persons with mild symptoms and asymptomatic persons with COVID-19 may place other vulnerable members of the public at significant risk. A large surge in the number of persons with serious infections can compromise the ability of the healthcare system, to deliver necessary healthcare to the public. It has been reported that Routt County, an adjacent county, is currently experiencing community transmission of this virus. Residents of Moffat County travel to Routt County frequently and *vice versa*, so this risk extends to Moffat County, too.

10. Closing Moffat County offices in the Moffat County Courthouse to the public protects both the public and the employees of Moffat County. Decreasing direct contact between people has been shown to decrease the risk of COVID-19 transmission to others, and is especially important for people who are over sixty (60) years old and those with chronic health conditions due to their higher risk of severe illness and death from COVID-19. This Order will reduce the likelihood that many individuals will be exposed to COVID-19, and will, therefore, slow the spread of COVID-19 in Moffat County.

Based on the foregoing FINDINGS, the Moffat County Public Health Director has determined, in consultation with the Moffat County Medical Officer, that the following Order is necessary for the protection of the public health.

I. ORDER.

1. **Virtual Meetings by the Moffat County Board of Health and the Board of County Commissioners of Moffat County.** Meetings of the Moffat County Board of Health and the Board of County Commissioners of Moffat County should be conducted as much as possible by telephone, electronically, or by other means of communication so as to provide maximum participation and also protect the public. Any meeting other than an

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emergency meeting is to be open to the public and arrangements shall be devised for how the public can participate in an open meeting.

2. **Closing Moffat County Offices in the Moffat County Courthouse to the Public.** The Moffat County offices located in the Basement and Main floor of the Moffat County Courthouse shall be temporarily closed to the public. County office staff can be reached by telephone or email, but many county employees have been encouraged to work remotely. Documents for the Clerk and Recorder can be delivered by the public via the Drop Box or by U.S. Mail. Access to the Moffat County Courthouse shall remain open for the delivery of mail.
3. **Quarantine Plan.** In the event of the need to implement quarantine procedures, the Moffat County Board of Health will follow the direction of State officials and the Moffat County Public Health Director and the Moffat County Medical Officer, who will provide specific information and directions relative to cancellation of public events, quarantine processes and procedures. Both the Moffat County Public Health Director and the Moffat County Medical Officer shall be authorized to sign Isolation Orders and Termination of Isolation Orders regarding individuals located in Moffat County.
4. **Phasing of Responses to COVID-19.**

Tier 1 – Heightened Awareness. The CDPHE and local health authorities have indicated that COVID-19 is in Colorado and are encouraging citizens to be aware and to focus on sanitization and hygiene.

- Instruct employees to stay home if sick or to go home if exhibiting symptoms while at work.
- Identify work spaces where employees can temporarily isolate if they are awaiting transportation to their home or medical care.
- Wash hands often and thoroughly with soap and water. If soap and water are not available, use hand sanitizer.
- Cover mouth with arm/elbow or tissue if coughing.
- Heightened amount of environmental sanitation with products approved by Centers for Disease Control.
- Employees should refrain from traveling to conferences and/or meetings in other parts of the country where cases of COVID-19 are expanding.
- Acquire/inspect/issue Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to select Moffat County staff (gloves, masks, etc.)

Tier 2 – State and Local Concern. The CDPHE have indicated multiple cases of COVID-19 within the State of Colorado. When directed by the Moffat County Board of Health, Moffat County will move its response to Tier 2, which in addition to Phase 1 steps, includes:

- Trial Teleworking and staggered shifts authorized.

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- Employees should refrain from physical contact with each other and with members of the public (i.e. handshakes, hugging, etc.) The Centers for Disease Control recommends a 6' separation between people.
- Employees should limit or eliminate any outside agency meeting attendance, unless able to be done remotely.
- All public and internal meetings should be limited by all Departments and Elected Officials.
- Moffat County will follow direction from State authorities.
- Employees will be directed to stay home (or go home) if they or any family member they live with is exhibiting any symptoms or if they are at high risk.
- Teleworking and staggered shifts authorized. Additional measures or plans to allow employees to work remotely, when feasible.
- Departments must take additional steps they have identified to limit exposure between employees and between employees and the general public.
- County buildings authorized to have reduced staffing and to limit public spaces.
- Heightened level of sanitization processes.
- Other steps as directed by State and Moffat County Public Health Director and Moffat County Medical Officer.

Tier 3 – Full implementation of Response Plan. Tier 3 may occur at such time as the Moffat County Public Health Agency or the State of Colorado recommends region wide social distancing, or schools are shut down, or at such other time as the Moffat County Board of Health deems it to be in the best interests of Moffat County residents. When directed by the Moffat County Board of Health, Moffat County will move its response to Tier 3, which in addition to Phase 2 steps, includes:

- County buildings will be minimally staffed, public access by appointment. The public will be directed to conduct business online, if feasible, or by phone.
- Departments will fully enact their Continuity Of Operations Plans. Teleworking options and staggered shift work maximized. Only essential services ongoing, unless able to be provided through employees working remotely.
- Other steps as directed by State and the Moffat County Public Health Agency and its Medical Officer, including support of their efforts.

- 5. General Information For All Persons Affected By This Order.** The Moffat County Public Health Agency is tasked with protecting the health and welfare of the citizens of Moffat County, Colorado, by investigating and controlling the causes of epidemic and communicable disease. This Order is necessary to control transmission of disease to others. See C.R.S. §25-1-508, Colorado Revised Statutes. Immediate issuance of this Order is necessary for the preservation of public health, safety, or welfare.


Any person aggrieved and affected by this Order has the right to request judicial review by filing an action with the Moffat County District Court within ninety (90) days of the date of the date of this Order, pursuant to C.R.S. §25-1-515, Colorado Revised Statutes. However, you must continue to obey the terms of this Order while your request for review is pending.

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This Order is in effect until midnight Mountain Standard Time, **April 17, 2020**, and is subject to continuing review by the Moffat County Public Health Director, consistent with recommendations from the Moffat County Medical Officer, and the CDPHE.

Signed this 22nd day of March, 2020.

MOFFAT COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH



Ray Beck, Chairman

MOFFAT COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH



Kari Ladrow, Public Health Director

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