

HINSDALE COUNTY, COLORADO

**LOCAL DISASTER EMERGENCY DECLARATION
COVID-19 VIRUS**

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is a highly contagious virus that originated in China and has since spread to numerous countries throughout the world, including the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 may cause serious illness or death in certain cases, particularly where the elderly or persons with underlying health conditions contract it; 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

WHEREAS, on January 31, 2020, the United States Department of Health and Human Services declared COVID-19 as a public health emergency; and

WHEREAS, on March 10, 2020, the Governor of the State of Colorado, Jared Polis, announced a state of emergency due to the COVID-19 outbreak; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States, Donald Trump, declared a national state of emergency due to the COVID-19 outbreak; and

WHEREAS, as of March 13, 2020, Gunnison County, Hinsdale County’s neighboring county to the north, has 4 confirmed cases of COVID-19 with more positive tests expected; and

WHEREAS, officials with the Silver Thread Public Health District anticipate that, due to the highly contagious nature of COVID-19, Hinsdale County is likely to see cases of COVID-19 within the community; and

WHEREAS, Hinsdale County anticipates that cases of the COVID-19 virus will occur in Hinsdale County and may result in serious illness or death for certain at-risk members of the community and also may have the effect of interrupting the normal daily functioning of the community in terms of closures for workplaces, schools and the like; and

WHEREAS, the expense and magnitude of responding to and recovering from the impact of a significant COVID-19 outbreak in Hinsdale County is in excess of the County’s available resources; and

WHEREAS, Colorado law provides for local governments to declare a local disaster emergency to assist local governments in responding to and recovering from emergency events, including pandemics like COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to § 24-33.5-709(1), C.R.S., “[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 of seven days except by or with the consent of the governing board of the political subdivision”; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to § 24-33.5-709(2), C.R.S., “[t]he effect of a declaration of a 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.”

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Interim County Administrator of Hinsdale County, Colorado that:

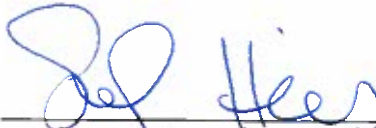
1. It is hereby determined and declared that the likely presence of the COVID-19 virus within Hinsdale County constitutes a local disaster emergency that warrants the mobilizing of emergency response and the furnishing of aid and assistance.

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

3. This Declaration shall remain in effect for a period of no longer than seven days, unless continued or renewed in excess of this timeframe by action of the Board of County Commissioners of Hinsdale County.

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

DECLARED this 14th day of March 2020 at Lake City, Colorado at 8:15
a.m./p.m.



Sandy Hines, Interim Hinsdale County Administrator