

A message about COVID-19 from Mayor John Clark

Dear Ridgway Community,

As far as we know, as of now, the Town of Ridgway and Ouray County have no confirmed cases of COVID-19 virus. Nevertheless, there's little doubt that we will face many challenges and much uncertainty around COVID-19 in the coming weeks. In the face of that, it's essential that we stay calm, be safe and follow the instructions of our various local, state, and national health agencies. Wash your hands, take precautions as warranted, and most importantly, limit your contact if you are vulnerable or have underlying health issues. Also, if you're not in a vulnerable category, remember that your actions can have serious consequences for those who are. We all need to follow the good hygiene practices recommended, in order to keep everyone safe.

As your Mayor, please know that the last thing I want to do in reaching out is to create panic. My goal is to ensure we are prepared and that our community is informed, so we can avoid anxiety and panic. The health, safety and well-being of our residents is always the foremost concern for everyone at Town Hall.

In order to ensure that accurate, timely information is communicated to our residents, we're relying on official sources to guide our efforts, such as Ouray County Public Health at the local level, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment at the state level, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the World Health Organization at the national and international levels, respectively. Town offices will continue to be open to serve the public as long as doing so is safe.

Right now, we're utilizing social media and our other communication channels to share health and hygiene recommendations as well as other pertinent local information. We plan to utilize this information to make decisions impacting the community, such as the need to modify or cancel any of our upcoming Town events. In the meantime, we also need to remember that canceling events and changing our "social distancing" behaviors will affect local business. I urge everyone to use common sense while applying these proactive measures and to keep supporting our local businesses as much as possible!

Ridgway is more than just a town, we are truly a community. We take care of our neighbors. We encourage everyone to assist those in our community who may be vulnerable and, more importantly, to look out for one another. This is a very dynamic situation with many moving parts. We can, and will, get through this together.

Sincerely,

Mayor John I. Clark

