

For Immediate Release | March 17, 2020

Town of Ridgway Declares Emergency and Takes Preventive Measures to Mitigate COVID-19

Ridgway, CO – The Ridgway town manager has implemented a Declaration of Local Disaster Emergency effective immediately. This is a proactive measure to slow the potential spread, impacts, and damage of COVID-19 and will assist the Town of Ridgway in securing regional, state, and federal resources, if necessary.

Town staff is working with the Town Council to schedule a special meeting within the next several days for the Town Council to consider a resolution that would extend the declaration indefinitely through the end of the COVID-19 pandemic.

According to Ouray County Public Health, at this time there are zero confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Ouray County, but there are confirmed cases in some neighboring communities. The Town of Ridgway is continuing to closely monitor direction from Ouray County Public Health and state and federal agencies and will follow guidance for the health and safety of the Ridgway community and Town staff.

Ridgway Town offices will be closed to the public beginning March 18, 2020 at 8:00 a.m. This closure will extend through the duration of the COVID-19 emergency period. All Town services remain active but with the following modifications:

- Marshal's Office – Remains open with no public access. Officers will be on duty and responding to calls. In the event of an emergency, please dial 911.
- Town Clerk's Office – Closed to public access. Will operate through email and phone. Please call 970-626-5308, ext. 211, or email pkraft@town.ridgway.co.us. Stay tuned for more details on interacting with this department.
- Town Parks – Remain open but all public restrooms are closed for the duration of the emergency declaration.
- Public Works, Community Development – Closed to public access. Stay tuned for details on interacting with these departments. Contact information is available at www.colorado.gov/ridgway.

All modifications to Town services and operations will be posted to the Town's website, www.colorado.gov/ridgway, as soon as possible. Town staff continues to work to put individual department response plans into place with the aim of specifically addressing continuity of operations as they modify operations to prioritize critical/essential operations.

The Town greatly appreciates your patience and understanding as we work to address this unique, rapidly evolving situation and the challenges that come with it. The Town requests that the community remain calm yet vigilant regarding hand washing and face touching, and asks that if community members feel any of the COVID-19 symptoms, they immediately call their primary care physician before going to the doctor, urgent care or hospital to limit any potential spread, especially into a medical facility that is overseeing multiple patients.

For questions or more information, please contact Preston Neill, Town Manager, at pneill@town.ridgway.co.us or 970-626-5308, ext. 212.

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