



The latest message from the Mayor about COVID-19

Dear Ridgway Community –

As we enter the second month of this unprecedented crisis, I wanted to share some stories of the positivity happening in our community.

First off, I learned yesterday that Ouray County is one of just 11 counties in the state that earned an “A” for our social distancing activity since the advent of the pandemic in Colorado. (See the [“Social Distancing Scoreboard”](#)) Give yourselves a big pat on the back for doing such a great job of flattening the curve! That effort has contributed to making Colorado one of just five states in the country to earn a ‘B’ (no states have earned an ‘A’) on the scorecard, which is amazing. Good work everyone!

By now, we all know how important social distancing is in keeping our healthcare facilities from being overwhelmed, especially since those resources are extremely limited in rural areas like ours. The residents of Ridgway, Ouray and the county at large have really stepped up on this front, and it’s hugely appreciated by everyone, but most importantly by our hard-working health care professionals. We all owe them a huge debt of gratitude for their efforts, and our corresponding distancing efforts contribute in a huge way.

The other thing that I find so encouraging is the level of effort being made locally to support our community in these crazy times. Organizations all across the county (not to mention San Miguel and Montrose counties) are hard at work getting folks the help they need. Probably the most exciting resource that’s been created is called the Ouray County Response Fund, which is a part of the Telluride Foundation’s Good Neighbor Fund, both of which are administered by Tri-County Health Network. The Ouray County Response Fund was created through the incredible generosity of local philanthropists who seeded the fund with \$200,000, which they hope will eventually be matched to the tune of \$400,000. 100% of funds raised go to help community members, who are eligible for up to \$2,000 and can reapply after three months. As of last week, more than \$30,000 has been disbursed already. Folks are encouraged to both apply for assistance and donate to the matching fund at www.telluridefoundation.org/ouray-county-response-fund.

On top of all that, Zoom meetings are being held weekly, by a variety of groups, in order to ensure that resources are getting where they need to go, volunteers are helping where they’re needed, and that any new resources are being broadcast to our non-profit aid organizations appropriately.

Despite the ongoing uncertainty surrounding this pandemic, our community continues to show its true colors and pull together for everyone’s benefit!

John Clark
Mayor
Town of Ridgway