

RIO GRANDE COUNTY, COLORADO
LOCAL DISASTER EMERGENCY DECLARATION
PURSUANT TO C.R.S. §24-33.5-709(2)

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is a highly contagious virus that has spread to numerous countries around the world, and has now been confirmed in all fifty states; and

WHEREAS, the virus may cause serious illness or death in certain cases, particularly when contracted by the elderly and persons with underlying health conditions; 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 on January 31, 2020, the United States Department of Health and Human Services declared the virus a “public health emergency;” and

WHEREAS, public health experts anticipate that, due to the contagiousness of the illness it is likely that Rio Grande County will experience cases of the virus and its transmission within the community; and

WHEREAS, Rio Grande County anticipates that without appropriately responding to the illness, spread of the virus may result in serious illness or death for certain members of the community, and may also have the effect of interrupting the functioning of the community in terms of work attendance, school attendance, social gatherings, and the like; and

WHEREAS, the cost and magnitude of responding to and recovering from the impact of the ensuing event is far in excess of the County’s available resources; and

WHEREAS, Colorado law provides for declaring disaster emergency to assist local governments in responding to and recovering from emergency events, including epidemics; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to C.R.S. §24-33.5-709(2) “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 (7) days except by or with the consent of the governing board of the political division;” and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners is the governing board for Rio Grande County and pursuant to C.R.S. §§30-10-307 and 308, the chairman of the Board of County Commissioners is the principal executive officer of Rio Grande County; and

WHEREAS, “The 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.” C.R.S. §24-33.5-709(2).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT DECLARED, by the chairman of the Board of County Commissioners for Rio Grande County, State of Colorado:

THAT, the spread of the COVID-19 virus constitutes a local disaster emergency that warrants the mobilizing of emergency response and the furnishing of aid and assistance; and

THAT, this Declaration shall be given prompt and general publicity and shall be promptly filed with the Rio Grande County Clerk and Recorder and with the Colorado Office of Emergency Management; and

THAT, this Declaration is necessary for the public health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the County of Rio Grande, State of Colorado; and

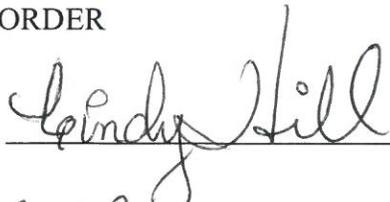
THAT, this Declaration shall be effective March 18, 2020 and ending April 18 2020, unless further extended by the Board of County Commissioners.

RIO GRANDE COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

By: 
John Noffsker, Chairman

Date: Mar 18, 2020

ATTEST:
CLERK AND RECORDER

Clerk/Deputy Clerk 

Date: 3-18-2020