



Press Release
Salida, Colorado – March 13, 2020
For Immediate Release

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City of Salida Initiates Response to COVID-19 with State of Emergency Declaration

The City of Salida takes the health and safety of the community very seriously and has been working closely with officials from the Chaffee County Public Health Department and the Board of County Commissioners to evaluate the COVID-19 pandemic and prepare a response appropriate to the situation. Information regarding CCPHE's current response can be found on their Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/COVID19ChaffeeCounty/>. **As of this Press Release, there are no confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Chaffee County.**

The City of Salida encourages its citizens and guests to use their best judgment in social distancing and follow the Center for Disease Control ("CDC") recommendations, which can be found at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>.

With all best available information provided to the City, and out of an abundance of caution due to the COVID-19 virus worldwide pandemic, the City of Salida is hereby declaring a Local State of Emergency **for the next ten (10) days** as authorized under Article XVII, Section 2-17-10 of the Salida Municipal Code, effective immediately. **This declaration is only being made in order to implement the City's COVID-19 Action Plan**, which is a tiered response to assist local health officials manage the potential for outbreak of the virus in Salida and Chaffee County.

As of this message, the City of Salida will institute the provisions of **Tier II** in the Action Plan. The Action Plan can be found at the City's website: www.cityofsalida.com. Please be advised that the Salida City Council may choose to extend the declaration for up to forty (40) additional days at a duly noticed meeting.

Tier II of the COVID-19 Action Plan relates to internal workings of the City and how individual departments manage meetings, interactions with the public, and instructions for high-risk individuals who work for the City. At this time, the City encourages all persons wanting to do business with the City to utilize digital or telephone devices to access the City's website, pay bills online or over the phone, conduct meetings via teleconference, and to refrain from contact distances of less than six feet (6') from City personnel.

Mayor P.T. Wood is encouraging the greater Salida and Chaffee County community to work together during this time. "It is imperative that we understand the impact of this pandemic on our community, and we know that collective action on preventative hygiene and minimizing social gatherings will significantly reduce the long-term impacts on Salida," he said. "These short-term measures will build upon our resiliency and strength. We have one goal in mind – to mitigate the possible spread of the disease and avoid a longer-term risk to our community. The City of Salida is asking your cooperation in proactively implementing these measures."

For more information, please contact City Hall at 719-539-4555.