

RESOLUTION NO.: 2020-03

SUBJECT: Declaration of Public Health Emergency (COVID-19)

EFFECTIVE DATE: March 25, 2020

**RESOLUTION OF THE EL PASO COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
DECLARING A PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY IN EL PASO COUNTY
(COVID-19)**

WHEREAS, the mission of El Paso County Public Health (“EPCPH”) is to promote and protect the public health and environmental quality in the community through people, prevention, and partnerships; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 25-1-508, C.R.S., the El Paso County Board of Health (“Board of Health”) has the power and duty to develop and promote the public policies needed to secure the conditions necessary for a healthy community in El Paso County, Colorado; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 25-1-509 (1)(c), C.R.S., EPCPH has the authority, in the event of a public emergency, to issue orders and adopt rules consistent with the laws of the State of Colorado as the El Paso County Public Health Director may deem necessary for the proper exercise of the powers and duties vested in or imposed upon Public Health or the Board of Health; and

WHEREAS, a novel coronavirus identified as COVID-19, which originated in Wuhan, China and has since spread throughout the world, is now present in El Paso County; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is a respiratory illness for which no vaccine or specialized treatment currently exists and which puts older individuals and those with certain underlying medical conditions at particular risk; and

WHEREAS, EPCPH has been monitoring the disease since late 2019 and on February 14, 2020 EPCPH activated its Incident Command Structure to begin monitoring the COVID-19 outbreak; and

WHEREAS, EPCPH continues to work closely with state and federal partners to monitor the spread of COVID-19 within the United States and to stay current on all information and recommendations; and

WHEREAS, because EPCPH mobilized partnerships with health care, El Paso County, the City of Colorado Springs, emergency management and other segments of the community in the early stages of the outbreak and continues to coordinate resources and efforts, it has streamlined objectives to achieve a common operational approach, positioning El Paso County to be well-prepared as COVID-19 spreads throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization declared the COVID-19 outbreak as a pandemic on March 11, 2020; and

WHEREAS, also on March 11, 2020 and under his authority contained in the Colorado Disaster Emergency Act, C.R.S. § 24-33.5-701, *et seq.*, Governor Jared Polis declared a Disaster Emergency in Colorado pursuant to Executive Order D 2020 003; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, President Donald Trump declared a national emergency in relation to the COVID-19 outbreak; and

WHEREAS, El Paso County currently has had one hundred six confirmed cases of COVID-19, three of whom are now deceased; and

WHEREAS, the extraordinary work of EPCPH and its community partners in responding to the threat and presence of COVID-19 to and in El Paso County and in assisting those individuals affected by and exposed to the disease has exceeded available EPCPH operational resources; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 outbreak response has reached a number of thresholds which warrant an EPCPH recommendation that the Board of Health declare a public health emergency, including evidence of community spread, surge capacity issues, the depletion of state resources, and the individual and community impacts of the imposition and enforcement of quarantine and isolation; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Health wishes to recognize the magnitude of the response and recovery efforts that may be required in the weeks and months to come, to support EPCPH's ongoing leadership in the community endeavor to protect the health of the citizens of El Paso County, and to demonstrate its commitment to drawing on all available resources to address the COVID-19 outbreak.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the El Paso County Board of Health hereby declares a Public Health Emergency with respect to the presence of COVID-19 in El Paso County and supports El Paso County Public Health in the exercise of its authority pursuant to § 25-1-509 (1)(c), C.R.S. and all other applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Health supports El Paso County Public Health and the EPCPH Director in the reallocation of agency resources, the reprioritization of agency services and functions, and the appropriation of emergency reserve funding as needed to respond to the COVID-19 outbreak.

MOVED, SECONDED AND ADOPTED BY THE EL PASO COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH AT A REGULAR MEETING HELD ON MARCH 25, 2020, IN COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO.

EL PASO COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

BY:  _____
President

ATTEST BY:  _____
Secretary