



Archuleta County
Office of the County Administrator
398 Lewis Street
P. O. Box 1507
Pagosa Springs, Colorado 81147
970-264-8302

**DECLARATION OF LOCAL DISASTER
PURSUANT TO C.R.S. § 24-33.5-709**

WHEREAS, §24-33.5-709 of the Colorado Revised Statutes (C.R.S.) provides that the principal executive officer of a political subdivision, in this case, the County Administrator for Archuleta County, Colorado, a political subdivision of the State of Colorado, is authorized to declare a local disaster; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to §24-33.5-709, C.R.S. the local disaster declaration shall not be continued or renewed for a period in excess of seven days except by the Board of County Commissioners of Archuleta County (“Board”) as the governing board of the political subdivision; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is a highly contagious virus that originated in China and has since spread to numerous countries around the world, including the United States; 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, Governor Polis declared a state of emergency in the State of Colorado on March 9, 2020, President Trump declared a nationwide state of emergency on March 13, 2020, and the San Juan Basin Public Health Department declared a local disaster on March 16, 2020, all in response to the spread of COVID-19 within the State and Nation; and

WHEREAS, the cost and magnitude of responding to and recovery from the potential impacts of COVID-19 is far in excess of Archuleta County’s available resources.


NOW THEREFORE, IT IS DECLARED THAT:

1. As the principal executive officer of Archuleta County, I, L. Scott Wall, County Administrator, hereby declare that there is a local disaster in Archuleta County, that the possible occurrence or imminent threat of the COVID-19 virus appearing in Archuleta County has the potential to cause widespread or severe damage, injury or loss of life or property, which will require emergency action to avert such danger or damage.
2. The effect of this declaration of local disaster shall be to activate the response and recovery aspects of any and all applicable local and inter-jurisdictional disaster emergency plans and to authorize the furnishing of aid and assistance under such plans.

3. The principal purpose of declaring a local disaster is to be proactive so that Archuleta County is prepared to respond to the COVID-19 if and when it appears within our community, to position Archuleta County to receive state and federal emergency funding and to activate the Archuleta County Disaster & Emergency Declaration Policies adopted by Resolution 2017-42.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Declaration shall be effective upon the date and time given below and shall remain in effect for a period not to exceed seven days thereafter except by or with the consent of a majority of the members of the Board. Two copies will be filed promptly with the State of Colorado, Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management and the Archuleta County Clerk and Recorder.

Date: 3-16-2020

By: 
L. Scott Wall,
Archuleta County Administrator