

Resolution
LARIMER COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

A RESOLUTION AFFIRMING POLICIES REGARDING RESPONSE TO COVID-19
PANDEMIC

WHEREAS, pursuant to Colorado Revised Statutes 25-1-508(5)(a), (f), and (h) the Board of Health develops and promotes the public policies needed to secure the conditions necessary for a healthy community; determines the general policies to be followed by the public health director in administering and enforcing public health laws, orders and rules of the county or district board, and orders, rules, and standards of the state board; and acts in an advisory capacity to the public health director on all matters pertaining to public health, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Health desires to outline its guidance and policy objectives and to affirm the actions of the public health director, and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic will require an ongoing response, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Health seeks to apply scientific evidence and best practices regarding the most effective approaches to slow the transmission of communicable diseases generally and COVID-19 specifically, and

WHEREAS, the virus that causes Coronavirus 2019 ("COVID-19") is easily transmitted, especially in group settings, and it is essential that the spread of the virus be slowed to protect the ability of public and private health care providers to handle the influx of new patients and safeguard public health and safety. This is necessary because of the risk of the rapid spread of the virus, and the need to protect all members of Larimer County, especially including our members most susceptible to the virus and also health care providers, and

WHEREAS, some individuals who contract the COVID-19 virus have no symptoms or have mild symptoms, which means they may not be aware they carry the virus. Because even people without symptoms can transmit the disease through respiratory droplets, and because evidence shows the disease is easily spread, gatherings can result in preventable transmission of the virus. The scientific evidence shows that at this stage of the pandemic, it is essential to slow virus transmission as much as possible to protect the most susceptible and to prevent a medical surge on hospitals and the health care system, and

WHEREAS, On March 10, 2020, the Governor of Colorado declared a State of Emergency related to the presence of COVID-19 in the State, and
WHEREAS, On March 13, 2020, Larimer County declared a Local Disaster Emergency related to COVID-19, and
WHEREAS, On March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared a National Emergency due to COVID-19, and
WHEREAS, On March 25, 2020, the Larimer County Public Health Director issued a Larimer County Public Health Order to Stay-At-Home which directed the community to only leave the house for food and essential services effective March 26, 2020 through April 17, 2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and
WHEREAS, the Public Health Director has issued various other public health orders as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, including orders related to lodging restrictions in the Estes Valley, limitations on the work release and community corrections facilities and orders relating to the size of gatherings allowed, and
WHEREAS, on April 26, 2020 the Governor of Colorado and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment issued orders relating to the "Safer-at-Home" phase of the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Orders include guidelines for stepping down of restrictions, and included criteria that in order to deviate from the State orders, a local public health agency must gain the support of the Board of Health, the County

Commissioners, and local hospitals before applying for a variance, and WHEREAS, the Board of Health seeks to provide clarity and guidance to local citizens and businesses related to the criteria and processes for the safe implementation of a stepping down of public health restrictions, and WHEREAS, the Board of Health, the Public Health Director, the Larimer County Department of Health and Environment, and Larimer County Office of Emergency Management have developed five objectives to effectively respond to the COVID-19 outbreak:

1. Identify and contain the spread of COVID-19 through aggressive contact tracing, active monitoring, increased testing capacity, enforcement, and strong public messaging.
2. Mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 on our healthcare systems through strong partnerships with health agencies and hospitals, the development of metrics to determine impacts, and by providing logistical support for the sheltering and care of impacted people.
3. Identify and manage supply chain disruptions and impacts, including essential medical supplies and equipment to ensure Larimer County has the resources that are needed to support an influx of patients and medical surge in hospital systems, and testing supplies to community-wide testing efforts.
4. Support quarantine and isolation efforts and the isolation sites for people experiencing homelessness, and continue to identify and secure alternate care sites for hospital decompression.
5. Provide the framework and guidelines to the community on the step-down process from the Stay At Home Order to the Governor's Safer at Home guidelines while meeting all 5 Indicators:
 - o A sustained decrease in cases for at least 14 days
 - o Hospitals are safely able to treat patients without resorting to crisis standards of care
 - o Testing can be performed for all people with symptoms consistent with COVID-19 infection
 - o Active monitoring can be accomplished for all COVID-19 cases and their contacts
 - o Clear protocol in place that requires social distancing and assists with case identification,

WHEREAS, the Board of Health believes that additional funding and resources will be needed to enable the Public Health Director and LCDHE to adequately respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Health seeks to continue close cooperation with local emergency management personnel, the hospital system, long term care facilities, healthcare providers, the county commissioners and municipalities.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LARIMER COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH AS FOLLOWS:

The Board of Health adopts the five objectives listed above related to the COVID-19 pandemic as the priorities for the agency, and
The Board of Health directs the Public Health Director to continue to implement practices to achieve these objectives and to seek any additional funding and resources as needed to achieve the objectives and goals, and
The Board of Health directs the Public Health Director to continue to work with local emergency management personnel, hospitals and healthcare providers, the county commissioners and municipalities, in order to achieve the objectives listed above, and
The Board of Health directs the Public Health Director to continue to use the best available data and scientific evidence to combat the COVID-19 pandemic, and

MOVED, SECONDED AND ADOPTED BY THE LARIMER COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH AT ITS SPECIAL MEETING MAY 4, 2020.

LARIMER COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

By:  Jennifer Lee
President, Larimer County Board of Health

May 4th 2020


Attest: Tom Gonzales