RESOLUTION 04152021A OF THE

Larimer County Department of Health and Environment

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 health 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 continues requires 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 patients and safeguard public health and safety, and

WHEREAS, County vaccine providers including LCDHE have been working with local, state, and federal authorities to administer and provide vaccinations to the community. While increased vaccination levels are a positive step in the control of this virus, ongoing public health orders are necessary to protect the public health while vaccination rates increase, 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, 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 emergency, it is essential to slow virus transmission as much as possible to protect the most vulnerable and to prevent the health care system from being overwhelmed, 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. The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment has confirmed that COVID-19 continues to spread throughout the State of Colorado, and

WHEREAS, On March 13, 2020, Larimer County declared a Local Disaster Emergency related to COVID-19, and

WHEREAS, on September 15, 2020, the Governor and Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment released Colorado's dial framework. The Dial standardizes different levels of "openness" at the county level. The Dial is the tool that allows Colorado to balance the urgent need to contain the virus with the need for localized guidance during the pandemic. On February 6, 2021 the Dial was modified to Dial 2.0, with increased incidence metrics for each level. On March 24, 2021 the Governor implemented Dial 3.0, which makes it easier for counties to enter Level Green and loosens some restrictions in Level Blue, and

WHEREAS, The current Tenth Amended Public Health Order 20-36 issued by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, which determines the level of "openness" that Colorado counties can operate in during the COVID-19 pandemic, went into effect April 4, 2021 and is expected to be rescinded on April 16th, 2021, and

WHEREAS, After April 16th, as COVID-19 vaccination rates increase in Larimer County, balancing the economic impacts of the pandemic with the need to continue to suppress the spread of the virus will be based on local conditions rather than statewide public health orders, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Health seeks to provide clarity and guidance to local residents 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 seeks to continue close cooperation with local emergency management personnel, the hospital system and healthcare providers, the county commissioners and municipalities.

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

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 increase vaccine uptake and thus reduce the case rate, 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

The Board of Health further supports the Public Health Director in issuing the Amended Eighth Public Health Order to control the spread of COVID-19 in Larimer County while continuing vaccination efforts.

MOVED, SECONDED AND ADOPTED BY THE LARIMER COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH AT ITS REGULAR MEETING APRIL 15, 2021.

LARIMER COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

BY:

PRESIDENT

ATTEST:

SECRETARY