Date: **March 9, 2020**
To: **Mayor Peterson and the Board of Trustees**
From: **John Crone, Town Manager**

Re: **Town Response and Preparations for COVID-19 (Corona Virus)**

Last Updated: March 6, 2020

As of last Thursday night, there is one confirmed case of COVID-19 in Summit County and there is one suspected case in Grand County. This has brought the discussion forward rather rapidly. Before getting into details, it is important to say that the most effective things that people can do are NOT PANIC and WASH YOUR HANDS.

The Town of Grand Lake has to prepare for two possible effects of COVID-19. The first concern is if the virus does cause an outbreak in the Town and how the Town will address it. The second concern is that, even if there is not an outbreak in Grand Lake, how the worldwide spread of the virus will affect our tourism and economic well-being.

What is coronavirus? How is COVID-19 different?

Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses that are associated with a respiratory illness that results in fever, cough and shortness of breath. These viruses spread through coughing or sneezing, much like the flu.

While some types of coronaviruses are common and regular occurrences in the U.S. and Colorado, COVID-19 is NOT one of those illnesses. COVID-19 is able to spread from person-to-person and has caused disease ranging from mild to severe.

Unfortunately, we don't know exactly how or how easily COVID-19 spreads between humans, but it likely spreads like other coronaviruses – mostly through coughing and sneezing or close personal contact.

What are the symptoms?

Symptoms of coronavirus infection include fever, cough and/or shortness of breath. Symptoms usually appear within 2 to 14 days after exposure.

Who is at risk of COVID-19?

People at the greatest risk of contracting this virus are:

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- People who have recently traveled to China or other areas where widespread community transmission is occurring.
- People in close contact with someone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19.

People who have symptoms and a recent travel history to affected geographic areas should contact a health care provider.

How can I protect myself and others?

The best way to avoid the spread and contraction of COVID-19 is to do what you do every flu season:

- Clean your hands with soap and water or alcohol-based hand rub
- Cover your nose and mouth when coughing and sneezing
- Avoid close contact with anyone with cold or flu-like symptoms
- Get a flu shot if you haven't gotten one this year
- Avoid touching your face
- Stay at home if you're sick

What does COVID-19 mean for travel?

Grand Lake is still open for business! If people ask, let them know that Grand County has established a robust program to protect our residents and our visitors. We will continue to keep everyone informed about the latest developments as they arise.

At this time, authorities have not issued any guidance that is specific to travel and meetings in Colorado or the U.S. The U.S. government has issued warnings for travel to Italy, Japan, South Korea and Iran in addition to China.

As this is an evolving situation, we encourage travelers to follow any guidance offered by the Center for Disease control. View the latest travel alerts at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html

What happens if a case appears in Grand Lake?

Should a case appear in our community we're prepared and have protocols in place for isolating and handling the case.

The Town has also been taking steps to ensure that we will continue to provide needed services to the people of Grand Lake.

1) We have taken steps to allow our staff to work from home, creating a virtual Town Hall.

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2) We are coordinating with the state and the county to ensure that our April election will go on as planned. We may need to limit the election to drop off ballots. The Town Clerk is working out ways to distribute ballots to the Townspeople if we are forced to go to this option.
3) Both water and public works are developing plans to ensure that we will be able to provide necessary services in case any staff members get infected or in case it becomes necessary to interact with an infected person.

Grand County Public Health is monitoring the situation closely and are in constant communication with other health agencies. They will keep us informed on any developments.

Where can I find more information?

State of Colorado hotline for general COVID-19 questions: 1-877-462-2911.

Center for Disease Control

- COVID-19 information: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html
- Travel alerts: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html

World Health Organization information: https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019

Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment: https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/2019-novel-coronavirus

Grand County Public Health information: www.co.grand.co.us/220/Public-Health

Grand County Office of Emergency Management: https://www.facebook.com/GrandCountyOEM/