

**DECLARATION OF LOCAL PUBLIC
HEALTH AND ECONOMIC EMERGENCY
WALSH HOSPITAL DISTRICT
doing business as WALSH HEALTHCARE CENTER; and
doing business as MAPLEWOOD HOMES; and
doing business as WALSH MEDICAL CLINIC; and
doing business as WALSH AMBULANCE SERVICE**

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared the worldwide outbreak of Novel Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) a "pandemic", and on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States issued a Federal Emergency Declaration for the Coronavirus Pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the Novel Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic is causing widespread human and economic impacts to unincorporated Baca County, Colorado; and

WHEREAS, the Baca County Health Department has proactively been working to respond to this pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 Pandemic is causing a public health emergency which may affect the WALSH HOSPITAL DISTRICT by generating multiple disruptions and impacts on healthcare infrastructure and continuity of government that may cause delays or interrupt capacity to deliver necessary services; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate and in the interests of the public health and safety to rapidly address community spread of COVID- 19 and subsequent cascading impacts such as economic distress, and would further protect the health and safety of the public to declare an emergency in the jurisdiction of the WALSH HOSPITAL DISTRICT; and

WHEREAS, the cost and magnitude of responding to and recovering from the impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic is far in excess of the WALSH HOSPITAL DISTRICT's available resources; and

WHEREAS, the economic cost and magnitude of the State-ordered closing of all restaurants, bars, gyms and theaters by Governor Jared Polis will have a devastating impact on businesses within the WALSH HOSPITAL DISTRICT; and

WHEREAS, declaration of a local emergency will assist and permit access to local emergency funds, Federal and State assistance, adjustments to policies, procedures and ordinances to ensure the public's health and welfare; and

WHEREAS, an Emergency Declaration allows the WALSH HOSPITAL DISTRICT to be able to take proactive measures and activate an Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) to better respond to the impacts of the COVID-19 event; and


WHEREAS, KAY LYNN HEFLEY, as chairman of the Board of Directors of the WALSH HOSPITAL DISTRICT, is authorized to unilaterally declare a local emergency pursuant to §24-33.5-709(1), C.R.S., and to activate the emergency management and operations plans and resolutions of the WALSH HOSPITAL DISTRICT.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. There is hereby declared to be a local emergency in WALSH HOSPITAL DISTRICT, to-wit: the occurrence of imminent threat of widespread or severe damage, injury or loss of life or property, resulting from the COVID-19 Pandemic requiring emergency action to avert danger or damage.
2. The effect of this Declaration shall be to activate the response and recovery aspects of any and all applicable local and inter-jurisdictional emergency plans and to authorize the furnishing of aid and assistance under such plans.
3. That this Declaration shall be effective upon the date and time given below, and shall remain in effect until such time as the Board determines that the local disaster declared in the Declaration, and as further described in the Resolution, no longer exists with the WALSH HOSPITAL DISTRICT.
4. That true copies shall be promptly filed with the Executive Director of the WALSH HOSPITAL DISTRICT, Baca County Clerk and Recorder and the Colorado Division of Emergency Management, and shall be promptly distributed to the appropriate representatives of the news media.

ADOPTED this 2ND day of April, 2020, at 2:30 p.m.

WALSH HOSPITAL DISTRICT



KayLynn Hefley, Chairman



Bill Eaton, Vice Chairman



Shirley Stone, Secretary