

**A DECLARATION ENCOURAGING COMMUNITY MEMBERS TO WORK TOGETHER TO SUPPORT THOSE MAINTAINING THE HEALTH OF OUR CITY RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES, ENSURE CONTINUITY OF GOVERNMENT AND FOCUS ON EQUITY DURING THE CORONA VIRUS PANDEMIC**

The City Council of the City of Boulder, Colorado Finds:

- A. Facing an unprecedented crisis resulting from the coronavirus pandemic, governments everywhere and at all levels are called upon to take decisive and bold action to protect the lives and livelihoods of their residents and especially to make focused efforts to prevent the exacerbation of existing inequities.
- B. On March 14, 2020, the city issued a declaration of local disaster emergency, giving the City Manager the authority to exercise all executive and administrative powers vested in the city for seven days. This declaration was subsequently extended by City Council.
- C. On March 17, 2020, the City Manager issued an order banning groups of 10 or more in publicly-owned areas and closing restaurants and bars to dine in service, as well as adopting for Boulder all pandemic-related restrictions imposed by the state of Colorado on activities within the state.
- D. On March 23, 2020, the City Manager issued an order directing individuals to stay at home except for “essential activities,” “essential governmental functions” or to operate “essential businesses,” all terms defined in the order.
- E. The governments of Boulder County, the state of Colorado and the United States have and are expected to continue to issue and adopt multiple orders, guidance, laws and financial aid aimed at mitigating the challenges created by the pandemic.
- F. Information on these and other actions taken by the City of Boulder in response to the pandemic are available at <https://bouldercolorado.gov/coronavirus>. This page also includes important links to other governments and organizations responding to the pandemic as well as to related local services.
- G. The Boulder community has a long and proud tradition of collaborating and developing partnerships that have united us in finding innovative solutions to the challenges we face. This has allowed us to overcome catastrophic events of the past while continuing to deliver services, especially to the most vulnerable.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT DECLARED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BOULDER:

1. **Flatten the Curve** - In keeping with the advice offered by epidemiologists to increase social distancing (aka, physical distancing) to slow the spread of the virus and to avoid overwhelming

the healthcare system, members of the Boulder community are strongly encouraged to take the following actions:

- a. Obey the city's stay at home order except for when it is essential to do otherwise and as specifically permitted by the order.
- b. Wash hands frequently, including after being in public spaces, after using the bathroom, blowing nose, coughing, sneezing, or caring for a sick person, and before eating.
- c. Because fear and anxiety about a communicable disease can be overwhelming and cause strong emotional stress, members of the community are encouraged to access community resources for mental health support to deal with fear, stress and anxiety.
- d. Avoid inviting people into your home who are outside of your immediate family, when possible.
- e. Recognize and take appropriate action to avoid spreading the virus to those providing essential services, including the workers supplying our community with basic services who continue to work to help us meeting our essential needs.
- f. Avoid moving about when possible by staying close to home. If it is necessary to transport yourself or others, practice social distancing by keeping a safe space from people and creating distance by sitting a few seats away from others.

**2. Ensure Continuity of Government** - All services delivered are to meet the needs of the community. During an emergency, however, the city must focus first on the most essential services. This includes police, fire, transportation, water utilities, sanitation, human services and the like.

- a. To help maintain essential wastewater systems, do not flush wet wipes or paper towels down the toilet. These items do not break down and can clog pipes, damage pumps and block sewer lines. Keeping these items out of the wastewater system will help prevent disruptions to the city's wastewater systems, costly equipment repairs and sewer overflows at homes or offices.
- b. Recognizing the immense value of the city's treasured open space trails and parks, the city is trying its best to ensure these areas can be kept open to the public. As we practice social distancing, we encourage our community members to use this same lens when accessing our open space and parks. Accordingly, visitors are asked to follow these guidelines when considering visiting:

- i. DON'T visit if you're sick. Stay home and help protect others.
- ii. Wash your hands and use sanitizer before, during and after you visit or use any public equipment. Playground equipment is not sanitized.
- iii. Maintain social distance. Stay at least 6 feet away from others.
- iv. Don't organize large group gatherings: The City of Boulder currently prohibits gathering of groups of 10 or more on publicly owned areas.
- v. Please pick up after your dogs and place waste in trash bins.
- vi. Please place trash in bins; if bins are full, please pack your trash out with you.
- vii. Prepare before your visit. Please visit the restroom and pack water/food before visiting the parks.

### **3. Focus on Equity – All community members are included**

- a. A person's ethnicity, language or association with a country or region is not a risk factor for the coronavirus. Moreover, health officials have emphasized that concern about COVID-19 is not a reason to deny care to a patient or service to any individual. Any discrimination incident that may be motivated by another person's race, color, disability, religion, national origin, sexual orientation or gender identity is considered a Human Rights Violation.
- b. Banks, credit unions, and other financial institutions holding residential or commercial mortgages are encouraged to follow the lead of the Federal Housing Finance Agency and halt foreclosures and related evictions. In addition, these institutions are asked to consider providing a 90-day deferment of payment for all consumer loans, including residential and commercial rents, mortgages, refinances, auto loans, student loans, and small business loans.
- c. All residential and commercial property owners and landlords are asked to refrain from removing tenants or mobile homeowners without cause or as a result of late rent payment or minor tenancy violations through April 30, unless public safety requires it. Moreover, all property owners and landlords are asked to refrain from imposing a fee for the late payment or nonpayment of rent through the end of April. Landlords are encouraged to work together with tenants to find solutions for rent payments and to help ensure housing security for persons at risk.
- d. Please buy what you need, but don't buy more than you need.

- e. Grocery stores and pharmacies that provide essential needs are asked to create designated shopping time for seniors, people experiencing disabilities and persons with underlying health conditions.
  - f. Support Boulder businesses by shopping locally and purchasing local gift cards. This also shows pride and helps protect Boulder's quality of life while providing critical support for businesses employing thousands of local employees.
  - g. Remain hypervigilant to cyber scam and fraud:
    - i. Be suspicious of any official-looking email message or phone call that asks for personal or financial information.
  - h. Consider curbside pick-up when ordering deliveries or making contact with members outside of your household.
4. **Coordination with other Governments** – Copies of this declaration shall be shared with the Boulder County Commissioners and Colorado Governor Jared Polis. Moreover, the city is committed to continuing and increasing its communication with the county and state governments to ensure that all decisions are being coordinated and that the city's interest are being taking into account in decisions by those levels of government.

ADOPTED this 24<sup>th</sup> day of March 2020

CITY OF BOULDER, COLORADO



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MAYOR

ATTEST



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CITY CLERK