



# NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Health Department Board Signs Public Health Emergency Declaration**

Sterling, Colo – March 23, 2020: The Northeast Colorado Health Department (NCHD) Board of Health has signed a resolution declaring a local public health emergency for the special district of the Northeast Colorado Health Department.

*"This is the first time the NCHD board has signed an emergency declaration," said Trish McClain, Director of NCHD. "We are taking this important administrative measure to ensure our rural public health district is eligible for state and federal funding that may become available for the COVID-19 pandemic response."*

COVID-19 is a highly contagious virus that has spread to numerous countries around the world including the United States. The World Health Organization (WHO) declared the worldwide outbreak a 'public health emergency of international concern' on January 30, 2020 and the federal government declared a national emergency on March 13, 2020. On March 10, 2020, in response to the growing outbreak the Governor of the State of Colorado declared a state of disaster emergency. Numerous Colorado Counties and Municipalities, including several in northeast Colorado, have declared disaster emergencies.

NCHD's health district includes Logan, Morgan, Phillips, Sedgwick, Washington and Yuma Counties. We anticipate that the cost and magnitude of responding to and recovering from the impact of COVID-19 will exceed the Public Health District's available resources. NCHD has determined the declaration to be in the best interest of the public health and safety for the residents of northeast Colorado and has taken action in order to mobilize aid and assistance for the response and recovery from this pandemic.

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