

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Delta, Colorado, April 3, 2020 – Delta County COVID-19 Response Efforts and Updates

Delta, CO – Delta County has continued to see an outpouring from the greater community, with volunteerism stepping up in a big way this week. “It’s simply incredible to see the hundreds of masks and gowns being made for our medical professionals and the hospital” said Robbie LeValley, Delta County Administrator, “I am in awe of how people rallied around the Stuff the Bus for First Responders Initiative, which included monetary donations to purchase additional needed supplies. We have individuals sewing gowns, and making face shields; we truly are blessed in Delta County and simply can’t thank everyone enough.”

Delta County’s Emergency Operations Center continued to work hand in hand with Delta County Memorial Hospital and other community partners and municipalities, to respond to alternate care site plans for Delta County, as well as to obtain the necessary Personal Protection Equipment needed throughout the County for the hospital, medical clinics, and for those fighting this crisis from the frontlines. The County received two shipments of Strategic National Stockpile from the Federal Government this week that was distributed accordingly.

The Delta Police Department remains on duty, responding to calls and providing public safety to the community around the clock. Officers can be reached through Dispatch at 970-874-2015 anytime. The Police Department facility is closed to the public with administrative staff available 8am - 5pm Monday - Friday by phone at 970-874-7676 or e-mail pdinfo@cityofdelta.net.

To date, Delta County Memorial Hospital (DCMH) has conducted 139 COVID-19 tests, with 1 test pending. COVID-19 testing is still being offered to hospitalized, critically ill patients, healthcare personnel appropriate for testing and those on a case-by-case basis.

On April 2 DCMH constructed a Medical Screening Exam Tent at the entrance of the Emergency Department (ED). It will serve as a way to protect both patients and healthcare workers. It will prevent exposure of well-patients to illness, and other patients, to the mildly ill. For people who are mildly/moderately ill who do not obviously need immediate care, a nurse will triage the patient in the tent. Vital signs will be taken and a medical screening exam will be done. If appropriate, instructions for home care and follow up will be given. Patients who need to be seen will be brought into the ED and further treated.

Inside DCMH there is now an isolated 8-bed isolated “COVID-ward” with the ability to expand which will be the location of care for COVID infected patients. Patients in this ward will be closely monitored by physicians and nursing staff for any change in their status. They may be transferred to the DCMH ICU for closer monitoring and escalation of care as needed. To minimize risk, while in the COVID wing, patients will not be able to have visitors; communication paths will be established to allow families to have regular updates on their status. At that time, Smart phones and IPADs may also be useful to facilitate communication with family.

The DCMH medical staff community encompasses 68 tremendously engaged and highly skilled physicians who are ready and continuing to prepare the Delta County health system for the COVID-19 crisis. At the forefront, leading the clinical emergency operations is Dr. Sara Knutson, Pulmonologist and Dr. Jennifer Craig, Emergency Room Physician.

“These two physicians are critical care trained and bring a wealth of experience, and have shown leadership and dedication to Delta County,” stated Jody Roeber, DCMH Chief Clinical Officer and Incident Command Officer. “I can’t express how truly impressed I am with our entire team here at the hospital. From the amount of hours of planning to the downright grit, what they have shown is mind-blowing. I can honestly say we are all in very good hands.”

Delta County School District (DCSD) has been working with the Colorado Department of Education and the Governor’s Office along with county health agency partners to monitor the coronavirus outbreak in order to make informed decisions regarding school operations. On Wednesday, April 1st, the Governor extended school building closures through April 30th, a move that makes it even less likely that in-person classes will resume this school year. During this time, distance learning and instruction will continue. Additional updates will be shared as soon as new information that impacts our end-of-year plans becomes available.

DCSD will continue to provide lunch and breakfast for all students Monday - Friday, at the current countywide pick-up locations.

“I am proud of Delta County, and the efforts made in the Emergency Operations Center, and in our Incident Command” said Mark Roeber, Delta County Commissioner Chair, “We have faced this crisis head on and have the right people, in the right places, ensuring we are ready for any potential surge in positive COVID-19 testing.”