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MESSAGE FROM THE COMMISSIONERS

Now that Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) has released its latest Public Health Order PHO 20-38 it is possible for leadership in Teller County to provide more clarity as to how the COVID-19 pandemic will be managed in Teller County.

First and foremost, the vaccines are working. The Teller County Commissioners encourage everyone to get vaccinated if it is appropriate for you to do so. Information on vaccinations can be found at www.tellercovid.com.

Also the state-wide mask mandate is still in place and, unless extended, it is expected to continue until sometime in early May.

The latest Public Health order rescinds the previous restrictions that have been mandated over the residents of the state on a county by county level. These restrictions did not provide for the customization of mitigation within our County by industry or transmission hot spots. Now that the COVID-19 dial has been ended, Teller County will be assuming local control to work with our community to control and address the spread of the virus in the County.

As previously stated, Teller County Commissioners, including Teller County Public Health and Environment, do not intend to place any additional restrictions on our citizens and visitors above and beyond those imposed by the Governor, CDPHE, and any state licensing authority. Instead, Teller County urges people to continue to use personal responsibility for their own health and take those precautions that are sensible and reasonable for each individual's situation.

We will, however, be continuing to monitor reported cases of COVID-19, contact trace and investigate those cases to help those infected identify what safety measures they, their family and friends should observe to diminish the possibility of any further spread in the area. If specific areas or industries show increases in new COVID-19 cases, Teller County Public Health and the Commissioners will work with those property owners, or industry leaders, to identify what steps should be taken to alleviate the spread of the virus. Teller County believes this target-specific approach to controlling the spread will allow our citizens and visitors more freedom and control over their own physical and mental health.

Hospitalizations in the Pikes Peak region will also be monitored and, should trends indicate that the health system in our area is being overwhelmed, Teller County Commissioners and Public Health, in consultation with the medical professionals, will act swiftly to institute appropriate constraints reverse those trends.

As you go about your business in Teller County, you will experience situations where people are still asking others to limit the capacity in their establishment or continuing other safety precautions. This is totally acceptable and encouraged by the County Commissioners and Teller County Public Health. The area school districts are also expected to have their own requirements which are valid, appropriate, and should be adhered to.

The Teller County Board of County Commissioners remains dedicated to the ongoing physical, mental, and economic health of our community. We continue to encourage all residents and businesses to take personal responsibility for their own health and help fight the spread of COVID-19 and respect those decisions made by others around you.

Bob Campbell, Dan Williams and Erik Stone
Teller County Commissioners