

Good afternoon, Custer County.

We (Custer County Public Health along with Custer County Emergency Management) have had many people reach out wondering what steps our offices have been taking since the rise of COVID-19 in the United States and specifically Colorado. Below is a summary of the main actions Custer County has accomplished in the last few days. It is our goal to limit the exposure of the virus in our county and to keep our residents safe and informed.

1. We have created a COVID-19 Support Plan. This plan is being adjusted daily as a result of where the Coronavirus is spreading. The plan contains a situational assessment of the virus (globally, nationally, statewide, and within the county), our mission, our execution plan to reduce the exposure risk to Custer County, an assignment of responsibilities, the testing protocol in place at Custer County Public Health Office, a notification protocol should the virus come into the county, and a communication plan for this incident. This plan is not open to public release at this time.
2. We have produced informational flyers about the virus, what the public can do to limit the spread, and what to do if you are ill. These flyers have been posted in public places (grocery stores, town halls, courthouse, sheriff's office, etc). They have also been posted on the Custer County's Emergency Management and Public Health Facebook pages. In addition, an informational poster-board was created and placed in the West Custer County Library for the public to view.
3. We met with the Board of County Commissioners, who are also the County Board of Health, on Monday 3/9/20. We discussed thresholds for closures of local events, school, and courthouse etc. We reviewed Public Health authority in these matters. It is important for us to have plans for all scenarios, this includes planning for the worst case imaginable.
4. We met with officials and faculty from the Custer County School to discuss possible plans and procedures. Prevention and precautions measures were highlighted. The school has a comprehensive plan to support these efforts. This plan has been created in coordination with guidelines set forth by CDPHE.
5. The MRC (Medical Reserve Corps) has been advised of the situation and is ready to be deployed if necessary.
6. We have been engaging in daily phone and web-based conferences with different Public Health representatives throughout the state to ensure effective communication and coordinated planning throughout our neighboring entities.