



March 27, 2020

Dear Basalt Community,

From the Town of Basalt Council and staff, we hope that you, your family and friends are safe and healthy.

We understand that information about COVID-19 from the state and Eagle and Pitkin counties is changing on an almost daily basis. The Town of Basalt's elected officials and staff are continually monitoring and making the necessary adjustments so that our community stays safe and healthy—while maintaining critical services and supporting our local businesses.

Before we provide several updates, the Town wants to remind community members to continue practicing proper social distancing in your daily interactions. Please wash your hands frequently and take care of yourself and others by eating healthy, prioritizing quality sleep and continuing to connect with your family, friends and neighbors (while following public health orders). Please be sure to take care of your physical and mental health. This is a stressful time for our community, but we will move forward together.

As the Town of Basalt continues to monitor and respond to the COVID-19 situation, I wanted to provide our community with the latest updates from Town Hall.

Statewide “Stay-at-home” Order

Governor Polis recently placed the entire state of Colorado under a “stay-at-home” order until April 11. The Town of Basalt immediately reviewed the order to understand how it would impact Town operations, as well as our residents, businesses and community organizations. We understand that it may be confusing to have different orders from the state and our counties, but the basic public health measures are the same across most orders. If you do not work in a “critical service” job, please stay at home, except to buy groceries, medications and other essential items or to pick up carryout food. And when you go to a local store or restaurant, or go out to exercise, please practice social distancing.

For more information about Governor Polis's recent order and actions by the state, please visit [covid19.colorado.gov](https://www.covid19.colorado.gov).

Resources

Both Eagle and Pitkin counties are coordinating significant resources for the residents of their respective counties. Since COVID-19 is a public health emergency, the primary responsibilities for response resides with the counties. The Town of Basalt is an active partner with the state, Eagle and Pitkin counties, as well as many other governmental, business and nonprofit entities in our community.

For a list of Eagle County resources, including food, economic and other assistance, please visit www.eaglecounty.us/PublicHealth/Documents/EC_Covid_Emergency_Response_Doc_RFV

For Pitkin County, please refer to pitkincounty.com/1297/COVID-19.

Town Council Meetings

To limit the community transmission of COVID-19, the Basalt Town Council is holding meetings using video and teleconference. Basalt residents can watch Council meetings live by going to www.grassrootstv.org. In the top menu bar, click Government, navigate to Town of Basalt Meetings and then click the Town Council tab. If you would like to provide comments by phone during the public comment portion of the meeting, please email planning@basalt.net or text (970) 987-7010 with your name and phone number. We will call you by speaker phone at that time in the meeting for you to make your comments. Please text or email as instructed by 6 p.m. on the evening of the meeting to ensure that you can be called to provide comments.

Local Disaster Emergency Declaration

On Friday, March 13, 2020, Town Council unanimously passed a Declaration of Local Disaster Emergency. The signed document is available on the town website. The purpose of this declaration is to activate the response and recovery aspects of any and all applicable local and inter-jurisdictional disaster emergency plans, emergency funding and Town Council meeting procedures, and to authorize the furnishing of aid and assistance that might be needed under these plans to respond to the COVID-19 outbreak.

Continuation of Operations Plan

On March 10, in preparation for the COVID-19 response, the Town of Basalt implemented a Continuation of Operations Plan in order to ensure the long-term ability of the Town staff to provide essential services to the community. We want to do everything in our ability to keep the staff healthy so we can be here to assist our residents since the COVID-19 virus has reached “community spread” status. The Incident now requires broad assistance in support of the Public Health Incident Management Team (IMT) as now, more than ever, Town staff needs to maintain our ability to address the health, safety and welfare services that our community requires. The plan continues to guide Town staff on its response, including passage of an Emergency Declaration by Council, enacting a policy for virtual meetings, closing public events and public buildings, and maintaining vital Town services that are essential to the public’s health, safety and welfare.

Municipal Election

Basalt’s April municipal election is continuing, and you should already have your ballot. Please be sure to vote. This situation should not impact or limit our community’s election. However, during the COVID-19 outbreak it is imperative that we all take extra safety precautions to keep everyone safe. Public access to Town Hall is restricted at this time. On Election Day, only one person will be allowed into Town Hall to vote at a time. Please return your mail ballot and avoid Town Hall.

Voters are encouraged to place their ballots in the 24/7 ballot box located behind the Basalt Town Hall (no postage required). If you are mailing your ballot via the U.S. Post Office, please put it into the mail

by Wednesday, April 1, to ensure it will arrive in time (.55 cents to mail). Ballots must be returned to the Town Clerk by 7 p.m. on April 7. Postmarks do not count.

Please contact Town Clerk Pam Schilling directly at 970-279-4381 or pams@basalt.net if you did not receive a ballot or have any questions.

Economic Impact

We know the current situation is imposing grave economic impacts across our community and the valley. There are a number of aid and relief programs being initiated at the federal, state, county and local levels. Recently, Governor Polis has taken a number of actions to support Colorado residents and businesses, including directing the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment's (CDLE) Unemployment Insurance Division to expedite claim payments during this state of emergency. Visit the Department of Labor's website at www.colorado.gov/cdle/unemployment for more information.

The Governor also recently announced that Colorado small businesses impacted by COVID-19 can now seek individual small business loans as part of the Small Business Administration's Economic Injury Disaster Loan program. Small businesses impacted as a result of COVID-19 may apply for SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loans. For more information about the loan program plus many other small business resources related to COVID-19, visit choosecolorado.com/covid19.

Eagle County allocated funds to help the county and community respond and recover from the COVID-19 outbreak. Any Eagle County resident who has been financially impacted by COVID-19 may apply for assistance at eaglecounty.us/covid19help. Additionally, the county has prepared a resource guide for the general public and a business guide for employers and local businesses.

Pitkin County has also allocated funds and is providing financial assistance for food, rent and other expenses. Information on those resources can be found at www.pitkincounty/gethelp.

Locally, the Basalt Chamber of Commerce has put together several resources to support local businesses. You can learn about these resources and much more by visiting the Chamber at www.basaltchamber.org/activity/business-resources/. The Basalt Chamber is also partnering with other business groups in the Roaring Fork Valley on a Business Impact Survey. If you own or operate a small business, please visit the Chamber's website to complete the survey.

Finally, thank you for everyone's patience, understanding and adherence to our state and local guidelines. By working together as a community, we will continue to address any changes to the public health orders and will be prepared to emerge from this situation stronger—as a community.

Sincerely,



Ryan Mahoney
Town Manager