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For immediate release:

For more information, please contact:
Andrea Carlstrom, Director
Chaffee County Public Health
719-530-2564
acarlstrom@chaffeecounty.org

Governor Orders Workers to Wear Masks and Gloves

Governor Polis signed an Executive Order to further protect workers and residents in senior-serving facilities, as well as many other critical industries on Friday, April 17th. Executive Order D 2020 039 orders workers at critical businesses and critical government functions to wear non-medical face coverings covering their nose and mouth while at work and wear gloves (if gloves are provided by an employer) when in contact with customers or goods. The order is in effect until 30 days from April 17, 2020 or until further extended.

In Chaffee County, cloth masks have been distributed through a variety of efforts over the past couple of weeks. Chaffee County Public Health (CCPH) is working on replenishing its supply of non-medical face coverings so that those who need them get them. If critical workers do not have access to these masks or gloves, they can reach out to CCPH to request a supply on the county website or COVID-19 Facebook page. At its first free cloth mask distribution event, over 300 masks were given out by CCPH staff in 18 minutes. The department intends on hosting future events as supplies are created and last. It is important that everyone wear a mask or face covering when out in public to slow the spread of COVID-19. This includes a bandana or scarf. There appears to be no shortage of non-medical masks and face coverings for purchase.

In addition, the state-wide Executive Order to Stay at Home is in effect through April 26th at which time the order will be reviewed and could be amended or extended. Chaffee County’s public health order is in effect through April 30th and must be followed until it expires.

Chaffee County Public Health Director, Andrea Carlstrom, states, “Currently, and in the upcoming days, there is and will be a lot of discussion on lifting restrictions and reaching recovery. Our county’s health and safety are top priorities, and rest assured, we will be very thoughtful about what this looks like locally. CCPH will continue coordinating and collaborating with our municipalities and stakeholders to move toward reopening when it is safe to do so.”