

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For more information, March 17, 2020

please call Megan Graham at (970)382-6265

**County sharply reduces public building access to slow COVID-19 spread**

All La Plata County buildings and departments will sharply reduce public access beginning Wednesday, March 18, moving toward online and telephone service where possible, and appointment-only visits in limited circumstances. This change to how La Plata County delivers services is intended to slow the spread of COVID-19 in our community by practicing social distancing. These changes will remain in effect indefinitely. Details about how to receive county services under restricted building access are found below.

**Public Meetings**

La Plata County Board of County Commissioners and Planning Commission meetings, will be accessible to the public using an online meeting platform for commissioners and the public to access via computer and telephone. Public participation at relevant meetings will be handled through this platform and information for joining the meeting will be distributed with the commissioners’ weekly press release. Regular meeting practices will resume following the high-risk COVID-19 pandemic.

**Buildings & Departments**

**County Administration Building**

The County Administration Building will close to public access without an appointment.

* Administration and the Board of County Commissioners office (970) 382-6219
* Finance Department (970) 382-6310
* Procurement Division (970) 382-6432
* No in-person bid-openings will be conducted

**Assessor, Clerk & Recorder and Treasurer (ACT) Building**

The Assessor, Clerk & Recorder and Treasurer Building will close to public access without an appointment. The 24-hour drive-through drop box at 679 Turner Dr., Durango will be available to collect motor vehicle renewals, recording documents, marriage and civil union licenses and election forms.

* **Assessor’s Office**
  + The Assessor’s Office will not be conducting site visits at this time.
  + Visit <http://www.co.laplata.co.us/government/elected_officials/assessor_s_office> for data and forms
  + Forms can be dropped at the 24-hour ballot box in the ACT building parking lot
  + Call (970)382-6221 for other services
* **Clerk & Recorder’s Office**
  + **Motor Vehicle**
    - All in-person Motor Vehicle transactions will be closed until further notice beginning March 18. Citizens can utilize the following options for certain vehicle transactions:
      * www.[mydmv.colorado.gov](http://mydmv.colorado.gov/)
      * 679 Turner Dr. Ste C, Durango
      * Kiosk - North City Market in Durango
      * (970)382-6516
      * [motorvehicle@co.laplata.co.us](mailto:motorvehicle@co.laplata.co.us)
  + **Recording**
    - All in-person Recording transactions will be closed until further notice beginning March 18. Citizens can utilize the following options for certain recording transactions:
      * [www.laplatacountyclerk.org](http://www.laplatacountyclerk.org)  
        679 Turner Dr. Ste C, Durango
      * (970)382-6281
      * [recording@co.laplata.co.us](mailto:recording@co.laplata.co.us)
  + **Marriage and Civil Union Licenses**
    - Call (970) 382-6281
  + **Elections**
    - All in-person Elections transactions will be closed until further notice. Citizens can utilize the following options for certain election transactions:
      * [www.laplatacountyclerk.org](http://www.laplatacountyclerk.org)
      * Mail - 679 Turner Dr. Ste C, Durango
      * (970) 382-6297
      * [elections@co.laplata.co.us](mailto:elections@co.laplata.co.us)
* **Treasurer’s Office**
  + Tax payments can be made using the following options
    - Mail - 679 Turner Dr. Ste B, Durango
    - 24-hour ballot drop-box in parking lot
    - <http://www.co.laplata.co.us/government/elected_officials/treasurer_s_office>
  + Call (970) 382-6352 for appointments for all other business

**Durango-La Plata Senior Center**

* The Durango-La Plata County Senior Center is closed to public access. Senior Services is continuing to provide home-delivered meals to seniors in the Durango and Bayfield area. Call (970)382-6435 to arrange meal delivery.
* Transportation and home chore services will not be available during the closure, and all activities and recreation classes are temporarily cancelled. Senior Center staff will be available by phone during the closure at (970)382-6445 and limited Medicare counseling is available at (970)382-6444.

**Sheriff’s Office**

The Sheriff’s Office administration, Alternatives to Incarceration and Investigations offices are closed to the public without appointment.

* Fingerprint appointments are not being taken at this time
* To report a crime or speak with a deputy, call (970) 385-2900
* To request records, visit <http://lpcso.org/cms/One.aspx?portalId=1942042&pageId=1944609>
* For civil paper service requests, call (970)382-7050, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday
* Call (970)247-1157 to reach administration

**Community Development Services**The Building and Planning Department services will be available by appointment via phone or email.

* Contact the Building Department at (970)382-6250 or [mary.sandoval@co.laplata.co.us](mailto:mary.sandoval@co.laplata.co.us)
* Contact the Planning Department at (970) 382-6263 or [planning@co.laplata.co.us](mailto:planning@co.laplata.co.us)

**Fairgrounds & Extension**The Fairgrounds Office is closed to public access and all scheduled events have been cancelled for the next two weeks.

* For questions about the Fairgrounds, call (970)382-6468
* For questions about Extension programs, call (970)759-4369

**Human Services**The Human Services Department, 10 Burnett Court, will be closed to public access except by appointment.

* To apply for medical, food, income or early childhood assistance, visit <https://coloradopeak.secure.force.com/>
* Application forms are available in the entryway and can be submitted using the dropbox outside
* Call (970)382-6150 with questions
* Call (970)759-0117 for veterans services assistance

**GIS/IT**

The GIS Department is closed to public access without appointment. For information requests, please use this link: <http://co.laplata.co.us/cms/One.aspx?portalId=1323753&pageId=1633035> or call (970)382-6226.

**Road & Bridge/Fleet**

The Road & Bridge and Fleet offices and shops will be closed to public access without an appointment. Please call (970) 382-6413 with questions.

**Public Works/Engineering**

The Public Works and Engineering offices will be closed to public access without an appointment. Please call (970) 382-6363 with questions.

**County Attorney’s Office**

The County Attorney’s Office is available by phone at (970)382-8600.