

Writing On the Edge

Town of Cedaredge | August 2020

COVID-19 Community Spread in Delta County

Delta County has experienced a spike in COVID-19 positive cases over the last several days. According to information published by the Delta County Health Department, there were 101 confirmed cases in Delta County and 182 pending tests as of July 29, 2020. The data shows a 13% increase in positive in just 9 days. Community spread of the COVID-19 virus has been confirmed in Delta County. It is incredibly important for individuals, especially those considered high risk according to the CDC, to take extra precautions to protect yourself.

The Governor of Colorado has mandated masks in all public places. If a customer has a complaint that a business is not requiring masks, please call the Delta County Health Department 874-2165. If a business has a complaint that customers are not following the mask mandate, please call Dispatch using the non emergency number, 874-2015.

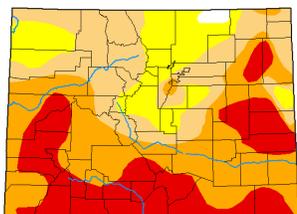
The COVID-19 virus is actively spreading throughout Delta County and the Western Slope. Please use common sense in not aiding the spread of the virus— wash your hands, avoid touching your face, maintain appropriate distance from others, wear a mask, and avoid large gatherings indoors.

At the end of the day, we are all Americans working to get through this uncertain time together. Remember that fellow residents are your friends and neighbors. It is okay to disagree and have civil conversations but leave the arguing, name calling, and rude exchanges for cable news.



Drought

The U.S. Drought Monitor as of July 28, 2020 qualifies the Town of Cedaredge in an “Extreme Drought.” Please be water wise the rest of the summer! Don’t water your lawn during the day, check faucets and toilets



for leaks, run the dish washer and washing machine with full loads only, and turn off the sink while brushing your teeth.

Contact Us

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Property Owners Now Responsible To Prevent Mosquito Nuisance

After concerns from community members spiked last summer and this summer due to the prevalence of West Nile Virus in the area, and at the suggestion of Trustee Richard L. Udd, the Cedaredge Board of Trustees passed a new law to protect the public's health and safety by controlling and reducing mosquito and rodent populations by requiring that property owners actively participate in pest management.

The new law is detailed in Ordinance 2020-06 and the full text can be found online at www.CedaredgeColorado.com/DocumentCenter under Permanent Records. The law goes into effect on Aug. 22.

West Nile virus (WNV) is the leading cause of mosquito-borne disease in the continental United States. It spreads to people by the bite of an infected mosquito. Cases of WNV occur during mosquito season, which starts in the summer and continues through fall. There are no vaccines to prevent or medications to treat WNV in people. In 2019, of the 122 total positive human cases of WNV in the State of Colorado, Delta County had 44 positive cases, or about 36 percent of the all cases in the state. Additionally, Delta County had two of the State's eight human deaths due to WNV last year.

"That's a statistic we hope to be able to fix within Cedaredge with this new law," explained Mayor Raymond F. Hanson. "We don't want to see any loss of life due to something we can help mitigate, like mosquito control."

Historically, the Town has done three roadside fogging applications in the peak of the season, and has already fogged twice this year. That isn't enough protection for the community, Mayor Hanson stressed. "The best defense is all of us working together by taking care of our properties." This means draining or treating standing water on your property that could attract mosquitoes, including old tires, cans, flowerpots, swimming pools/hot tubs, clogged gutters, toys or other sources of water collection.

The new law prohibits the collection of standing water on properties, unless that water is treated with larvicide. Mosquito larva develop in untreated standing water. "We have two local businesses that supply chemicals that are safe to use on your property around your pets and children, and that are cost effective," Mayor Hanson said; Big John's and Cropworx both carry the products.

A piece of the new legislation also calls for rodent control, specifically mentioning prairie dogs and rats, and requires property owners to make sure all grounds, buildings and structures are free of rodent harborage or infestation.

Enforcement will be handled the same as other code-enforcement issues within the Town, on a complaint basis. Similar to weeds or garbage that gets out of control, if you notice a neighboring property that has untreated standing water where mosquitoes are breeding, please call the Cedaredge Police Department at 970-856-4301 and make a nuisance complaint. Officers will respond to the property and work with the property owner to mitigate the threat. Owners who do not comply with the law face fines and potentially a citation to municipal court.



In addition to draining standing water on your property, the Board wants to stress additional ways to keep yourself and your families safe this year from WNV. Remember the Four D's: Use an insect repellent like **DEET**; **D**rain standing water; avoid prime mosquito times like **D**awn and **D**usk; and **D**ress in long sleeves and pants when and where mosquitoes are most active.

"We want everyone to stay safe and healthy this summer," Mayor Hanson said. "We're asking you to help keep the whole community safe with these simple steps that will have a big impact."