FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Federal Public Health Emergency Expired May 11th 2023

Last week, the federal government ended the federal public health emergency that was issued in the year 2020 in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic. We encourage all to read The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment release (a Spanish translation is available):

https://covid19.colorado.gov/press-release/state-prepared-for-transition-as-federal-public-health-emergency-expires-on-may-11

Gunnison County would like to take a moment to acknowledge the collective efforts made by all in our community during this past three years! As of May 2023, the State of Colorado reports that over 4.2 million people in Colorado have received at least two doses of the COVID-19 vaccine. Locally, Gunnison County Health & Human Services (HHS) vaccinated over 10,000 people with at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.

The ending of the public health emergency does not mean that the COVID-19 virus is eliminated unfortunately and HHS will incorporate the virus into its everyday responsibilities regarding monitoring and surveilling for communicable diseases. Gunnison County HHS will still be offering some services including:

- While supplies last, Gunnison County HHS will be able to give out free COVID-19 rapid Antigen Self Tests. Persons can get them at the Gunnison County HHS office located at 220 N. Spruce St. Gunnison, CO 81230.
- COVID-19 vaccinations will continue to be offered through the HHS Immunization Clinic located on the second floor of the Gunnison Valley Hospital, address 711 N. Taylor St. Gunnison, CO 81230. Please call (970) 641-3244 to make an appointment. You can also reach out to your primary care provider.

With the federal public health emergency ending, States are no longer required to report positive cases, unless those cases have been hospitalized. Our COVID-19 website will still redirect those curious about case counts to the Center for Disease Control & Prevention's website (CDC) as they have also updated their reporting to reflect only hospitalized cases.

If you have any questions regarding the end of the public health emergency or about COVID-19 in general, please call Gunnison County HHS at (970) 641-3244.

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