July 13, 2020

Governor Jared Polis  
State Capitol Building  
200 E. Colfax, RM 136 Denver, CO 80203

Jill Hunsaker Ryan, Executive Director CDPHE  
4300 Cherry Creek Drive South Denver, CO 80246

RE: UNIFORM TESTING STRATEGY NEEDED

Dear Governor Polis and Jill Ryan:

We hope this finds you in good health. We are all on the front lines dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic and keeping our community safe. The Town of Snowmass Village has continued to align with Pitkin County’s "box-it-in" strategy. Our steadfast commitment and goal to provide a resilient and healthy community is based on modeling the behavior of our Five Commitments to Containment:

- I will maintain 6 feet of social distance.
- I will wash my hands often.
- I will cover my face in public.
- I will stay home when I am sick.
- I will get tested immediately if I have symptoms.

A key component to the Five Commitments is the ability for individuals to get tested when necessary, and to receive their results quickly. In order to guarantee that this can occur, the Snowmass Village Town Council strongly believes that a uniform testing strategy is needed at the state-level. The strategy should focus testing based on need, avoiding misuse of the limited supply of testing equipment. Throughout our region, we have seen disparities in testing strategies, with testing being conducted even for the “worried well.” This statewide guidance should hold all counties, hospitals, and healthcare providers to the same standard while giving these entities the tools to responsibly administer tests.

We also believe that strong testing and communication systems should accompany this uniform testing strategy. The State should have a stable supply of testing equipment and reagents, and test results should also be consistently delivered within 48 hours. Recently, local healthcare providers have seen results take up to 8 to 10 days.

Town Council strongly encourages that leadership within the Governor’s Office and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment lead these efforts to develop not only the uniform strategy for testing across the state, but also build the infrastructure to support a robust testing system. These systems are crucial to keeping our economy and healthcare systems going, and work should be done now to ensure that there is enough capacity across all of Colorado.

Sincerely,

Snowmass Village Town Council

Mayor Markey Butler  
Bob Sirkus, Mayor Pro-Tem  
Alyssa Shenk, Councilmember

Bill Madsen, Councilmember  
Tom Goode, Councilmember