

**ORDER OF HEALTH OFFICER March 20, 2020**  
**Amendment of March 16, 2020 Order**

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization has declared the worldwide outbreak of COVID-19 Novel Coronavirus a pandemic;

WHEREAS, as of March 18, 2020, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) indicates there are over 10,400 cases and 150 deaths in the United States due to the COVID-19 virus;

WHEREAS, all states in the United States are experiencing confirmed cases of COVID-19;

WHEREAS, the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) recognizes COVID-19 as a threat to the residents of Montana;

WHEREAS, there are multiple confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Yellowstone County;

WHEREAS, the Yellowstone County Unified Health Command has activated response plans and protocols to prepare for additional cases of COVID-19 in Yellowstone County;

WHEREAS, the Yellowstone County Unified Health Command has also worked to identify, contact, and test individuals in Yellowstone County who have been potentially exposed to COVID-19 in coordination with the State of Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services and the CDC;

WHEREAS, proactively implementing mitigation and containment measures to slow the spread of the virus is in the best interests of Yellowstone County and its people;

WHEREAS, COVID-19, a respiratory disease that can result in serious illness or death and is a new strain of Coronavirus that had not been previously identified in humans and can easily spread from person-to-person;

WHEREAS, the CDC identifies the potential public health threat posed by COVID-19 both globally and in the United States as "high" and has advised that person-to-person spread of the COVID-19 will continue to occur globally, including within the United States, Montana, and Yellowstone County;

WHEREAS, the circumstances of this outbreak may exceed the capacity of the services, personnel, equipment, supplies and facilities of Yellowstone County;

WHEREAS, based upon all of the above, the Governor of the State of Montana, in consultation with public health authorities, has strongly recommended the limiting of all gatherings, specifically avoiding gatherings of more than 10 people;

WHEREAS, the City-County of Yellowstone's Board of Health has the duty to protect the public from the introduction and spread of communicable disease or other conditions of public health importance, including through actions to ensure the removal of filth or other contaminants that might cause disease or adversely affect public health;

WHEREAS, Yellowstone County's Health Officer has determined that the potential spread of COVID-19 constitutes a public health emergency and actions must be taken to avert and minimize the outbreak of this communicable disease;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 50-2-118 of the Montana Code Annotated, a local health officer in carrying out the purpose of the public health system shall take steps to limit contact between people in order to protect the public health from imminent threats, including but not limited to ordering the closure of buildings or facilities where people congregate and cancelling events;

WHEREAS, the local health officer should institute his authority to close buildings and facilities to prevent the spread of COVID-19 within the County of Yellowstone, Montana;

WHEREAS, the Health Officer issued an Order on March 16, 2020 closing food service operations as detailed below;

WHEREAS, on March 20, 2020 the Governor issued a "Directive Implementing Executive Orders 2-2020 and 3-2020 and providing for measures to combat the spread of COVID-19 via food and beverage services or casinos; and,

WHEREAS, the Health Officer extends his March 16, 2020 order as detailed below.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, pursuant to Title 50, Chapter 2, Part 1, and specifically Section 50-2-118 of the Montana Code Annotated:

**Effective at 8 am MST on Saturday March 21, 2020 for a period of time up to and through 11:59 pm April 10, 2020 the following establishments in Yellowstone County shall be closed, subject to any noted exceptions:**

- **All restaurants, food courts, cafes, coffee houses, bars, brew pubs, taverns, breweries, microbreweries, distilleries, wineries, tasting rooms, special licensees, clubs and casinos.**
- **All food service operations, subject to the exception below, except:**
  - **While remaining closed to dine-in customers, food service operations may continue to (and are encouraged to) provide for take-out and delivery services.**

- **Food service establishments that serve a population that depends on it as one of its sole sources of food, including university dining facility or cafeterias in hospital and care facilities, room service in hotels, crisis shelters or similar institutions, airport concessionaires, and any facilities necessary for the response to the emergency, all of which may continue to operate using necessary-only personnel.**
- **All fitness operations having indoor group programs, including but not limited to health clubs, health spas, aquatic centers, hot springs, fitness centers, gyms, fitness clubs, dance studios, gymnastics studios or schools, yoga studios and the like.**
  - **This does not include personal, one-on-one training or instruction in such locations, provided no more than 5 persons are present and spaced at least six feet apart in any one operation at one time.**
- **All massage and massage therapy establishments, practices and centers.**
- **All theaters and entertainment venues, whether displaying film, live, video, or other format of entertainment and whether indoor or outdoor.**
- **All group activity and recreational centers including but not limited to indoor arenas, bingo halls, music halls, bowling alleys and ice skating and roller skating rinks.**
- **All indoor play areas, including but not limited to trampoline parks, indoor climbing centers, discovery centers and other child-related entertainment venues and activity areas present in other venues.**
- **All church and religious services and group activities held in public venues including all congregations and services at places of worship including churches, synagogues, cathedrals, and the like.**
- **All funeral establishments and activities, including graveside and memorial services.**

**This Amended Order is effective at 8:00 am Saturday March 20, 2020 through April 10, 2020 at 11:59pm pending further notification.**

  
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 JOHN FELTON  
 HEALTH OFFICER FOR CITY-COUNTY OF YELLOWSTONE, MONTANA