

ORDER OF HEALTH OFFICER
October 14, 2020

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

WHEREAS, all states in the United States, including Montana, have experienced confirmed cases of COVID-19;

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

WHEREAS, the Yellowstone County Unified Health Command has also worked to identify, contact, and as appropriate quarantine, monitor, and/or 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 U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention;

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, the reignition of the economy and the status of the community's mental health is also vital and in the best interests of Yellowstone County and its people;

WHEREAS, safeguards have been implemented to mitigate the circumstances of this outbreak's impact on 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, on April 22, 2020 implemented a plan titled "Reopening the Big Sky: A Phased Approach" ("Plan");

WHEREAS, on July 15, 2020, the Governor of the State of Montana issued an order requiring, under certain circumstances, the use of masks ("Mask Order");

WHEREAS, the Plan provided specific, phased circumstances under which it is expected the State of Montana and its people may begin the process of opening previously closed or altered businesses, organizations and workplaces;

WHEREAS, the Plan provides local Health Officers the ability to analyze the spread of COVID-19 within their own communities and adjust the Plan as necessary;

WHEREAS, many of the safeguards implemented have been demonstrated not sufficient to curb the spread of COVID-19 in Yellowstone County;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 50-2-118 of the Montana Code Annotated, a Local Public 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;

WHEREAS, based on the significant increase of cases reaching over 50/100000/day for a single Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) week ended October 10, 2020, the Local Public Health Officer has determined that additional measures beyond the Plan must be implemented within Yellowstone County;

WHEREAS, on October 12, 2020, the Local Public Health Officer issued an Order revising prior restrictions and requirements as part of the additional measures; and,

WHEREAS, it has come to the attention of the Local Public Health Officer that the October 12, 2020 Order needs additional clarification and requirements.

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 8:00 AM MDT on October 14, 2020 for a period of time up to and through 11:59 PM MST on November 9, 2020, and in addition to all requirements and expectations set out in the Order of October 12, 2020 apart from the requirements regarding houses of worship, the following shall be required, subject to any noted exceptions:

- **Houses of worship may exceed group size of 25, subject to a limit of 75% of the facility's capacity and continued compliance with physical distancing and masking requirements.**
- **It is the continued recommendation of the Local Public Health Officer that all control measures be adopted and implemented, in recognition of the need to significantly reduce the high level of COVID-19 and its transmission in Yellowstone County and the region served by Yellowstone County's healthcare providers, as set forth in the October 12, 2020 Order.**

This Amended Order likewise incorporates any and all additional Directives, Orders or written opinions of the Governor or his designees.

This Amended Order is effective as indicated above pending further notification or modification of this order by the Local Public Health Officer.



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