

ORDER OF HEALTH OFFICER
November 19, 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 reversion of the economy and the status of the community's mental health are 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, on November 17, 2020 the Governor of the State of Montana issued an order limiting gathering size, expanding mask usage requirements, and limiting hours of operations and occupancy for certain businesses in the State;

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

WHEREAS, the safeguards implemented to date have been demonstrated to be insufficient 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, on October 12, 2020 and October 14, 2020 the Local Public Health Officer implemented additional measures to attempt to curb the increases in numbers of cases and these orders were extended through December 9, 2020 in an Order dated November 6, 2020;

WHEREAS, despite the October measures, new COVID-19 infections are now frequently reaching over 100/100,000/day, the Local Public Health Officer has determined that additional measures beyond the Plan must be implemented within Yellowstone County;

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 5:00 AM MST on November 20, 2020 for a period of time up to and through 11:59 PM on December 31, 2020, the following shall be required, subject to any noted exceptions:

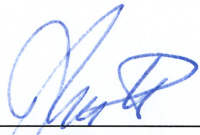
- **As in the October 12, 14 and November 6, 2020 Orders, and as in the Governor's November 17, 2020 directive, except as otherwise indicated below, all group physical gatherings, including but not limited to all businesses, organizations, and private gatherings shall be limited to no more than 25 individuals, regardless of the ability to physically distance or location. This restriction applies to both indoor and outdoor events.**
- **The Local Public Health Officer's October 26, 2020 Order regarding Congregate Care shall remain in effect, with the exception of changes made herein.**
- **Mask use and physical distancing requirements issued under Governor's directives remain in force and compliance is required under this Order.**
- **All places of assembly, including but not limited to retail venues, bars, churches, restaurants, casinos, gyms, fitness studios, hair and nail salons, bowling alleys and the like (other than the exceptions below) must close by 10:00 PM and may not reopen prior to 4:00 AM. All customers must leave the establishment no later than 10:00 PM and customers may not be admitted prior to 4:00 AM.**

- **All places of assembly, including but not limited to retail venues, bars, churches, restaurants, casinos, gyms, fitness studios, hair and nail salons, bowling alleys and the like, must limit occupancy to no more than 50% capacity.**
- **Exceptions:**
 - **Healthcare provider organizations such as hospitals, doctors' offices, urgent care centers, nursing and assisted living facilities, and the like are not subject to the hours and occupancy restrictions.**
 - **Pharmacies may operate past 10:00 PM. However, if the pharmacy has other retail operations, all sales other than the pharmacy must end by 10:00 PM.**
 - **Drive-through and delivery for food service only, can continue past 10:00 PM.**
 - **Childcare facilities are not subject to the hours of operation and occupancy restrictions.**
 - **Overnight cleaning services are not subject to the hours of operation restriction.**
- **Bar service shall be limited to seated customers only, standing at the bar is not allowed. Patrons must be seated at appropriately physically distanced tables or if at the bar, non-household members must be seated at least six (6) feet apart. Orders must be taken from seated customers and delivered to seated customers only.**
- **All Adult and Youth organized athletic teams (including but not limited to club sports, travel teams, recreational leagues, and the like) and performance activities (including but not limited to acting, music, dance, and the like) may continue to hold practices and trainings so long as the total number of participants in the practice or training is less than 25. During the pendency of this Order, however, games, matches, scrimmages, and public performances, cannot be held or hosted, regardless of whether admission fees are charged or whether the public event is considered a practice activity. Because of the Governor's Directive placing restrictions of school events solely in the discretion of local school boards, this provision does not apply to school-based athletics.**

In addition to the above, the following measures are urged throughout the County:

- **Individuals are urged to stay at home except for work, school, and other essential activities.**
- **Where possible, employers should allow employees and staff to work remotely.**
- **Non-household close contacts should be limited to no more than 6 per week.**
- **It is encouraged to keep holiday celebrations small, with limited non-household interaction, using technology to remain socially connected.**
- **To the extent possible, the use of technology for virtual meetings, services, and the like is encouraged to allow greater continuity of activities while reducing the risk of disease transmission that is associated with in-person activities.**
- **Support local food establishments through delivery, drive-through, and take-out services.**
- **Support local businesses via remote ordering and delivery.**

This Order replaces and supersedes earlier orders by the Local Public Health Officer unless explicitly noted and 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