

ORDER OF HEALTH OFFICER
October 26, 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, 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, high-risk individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19 but do not require hospitalization still require the need for isolation;

WHEREAS, high-risk individuals who have been exposed to COVID-19, as documented by a state or local public health official or medical professional but do not require hospitalization still require the need for quarantine;

WHEREAS, high-risk individuals are defined as individuals over the age of 65, those with certain underlying health conditions, and medical staff working in a COVID-19-positive environment;

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; and,

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;

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:

Entities managing high-risk populations, such as individuals over age 65 or those who have certain underlying health conditions, people with COVID-19 in the general population who cannot return to their place of residence for social reasons, first responders and health professionals testing positive for COVID-19 or those who are working in a COVID-19 positive environment, those who have been exposed to COVID-19 (as documented by a state or local health official, or medical health professional) that do not require hospitalization but need isolation or quarantine and require emergency non-congregate sheltering, must:

- Allow, where possible, only single use or family use of the individual rooms.
- Follow procedures for responding to COVID-19 including but not limited to:
 - Continue to follow all prevention practices including cleaning, sanitizing, and handwashing;
 - At check-in at such facilities screen for COVID-19 symptoms;
 - Provide any client with respiratory symptoms with a surgical mask;
 - Escort clients to a quarantine or isolation location;
 - Direct clients to a primary care provider or hospital to assess the need for COVID-19 testing;
 - Direct clients who are COVID-19 positive or awaiting test results to alternative housing in coordination with the Local Health Officer or his designee(s);
 - Minimize the number of staff members who have close interactions with clients who have respiratory symptoms;
 - Use physical barriers to protect staff who will interact with clients with unknown infection status (such as check-in staff). For example, install a sneeze guard at the check-in desk or place an additional table between staff and clients to increase the distance between them while at the facility;
 - Avoid designating staff or volunteers at high risk of severe COVID-19 (such as those who are older or have underlying health conditions such as heart disease, lung disease and diabetes) to interact directly with clients upon check-in or screening for respiratory symptoms;
 - Ensure that clients get help as needed to prevent disease spread and get medical care; and,
 - Monitor all clients for respiratory symptoms daily.

This Directive and Order shall be effective October 26, 2020 until specifically rescinded or amended.



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