

ORDER OF HEALTH OFFICER
October 12, 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; 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:


Effective at 8:00 AM MDT on October 14, 2020 for a period of time up to and through 11:59PM MST on November 9, 2020 the following shall be required, 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 shall be required to close for inside business no later than 12:30 AM as issued under Governor’s directives. All such businesses shall continue to maintain all social distance, masking requirements, and commitments made under approved Yellowstone County reopening plans for dine-in services.**
- **Drive-through and delivery for food service only can continue past 12:30 AM.**
- **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.**
- **Mask use and physical distancing requirements issued under Governor’s directives remain in force and compliance is required under this Order.**
- **The exceptions to these restrictions are as follows:**
 - **Houses of worship may exceed group size of 25, subject to a limit of 50% of the facility’s capacity and compliance with physical distancing and masking requirements.**

- **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 K-12 schools, 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.**
- **Per the Governor of Montana, local school districts and their activities. All decision-making authority shall remain with the local districts and school boards for all school-related activities, both academic and extracurricular.**
- **This Order shall not apply to the process of in-person voting on November 3, 2020. However, distancing and mask-wearing will be required per the Mask Order of the Governor.**
- **Childcare facilities, in recognition of their critical role in supporting a necessary workforce, are exempt.**
- **In addition to the requirements described herein, it is the recommendation of the Local Public Health Officer that the following 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:**
 - **When possible and operationally feasible, Yellowstone County employers should encourage and allow employees to work remotely.**
 - **Yellowstone County residents should limit their number of close, non-household contacts to no more than six (6) persons per week, as well as limiting the duration of close, non-household contacts to less than fifteen 15 minutes whenever possible.**
 - **Where possible, Yellowstone County residents are encouraged to utilize contact-free services of businesses, including but not limited to drive-through and take-out food services, contactless delivery, and the like.**
 - **When Yellowstone County residents have to leave their homes, residents are encouraged to minimize the number of trips, locations, and time to the greatest extent possible.**
 - **Yellowstone County residents should be very vigilant in adhering to physical distancing requirements and recommendations, mask use requirements and recommendations, hand hygiene and surface sanitation procedures, and staying away from others when sick.**

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