



March 17, 2020

Dear Missoula Community:

The Environmental Health Division is taking steps to limit the spread of Covid-19, while still providing our services to the community, by asking that you to do business with us over phone, mail and email to the extent possible, instead of coming into our office.

- We have temporarily closed our Information Desk for in-person questions, but have staff to answer your questions by phone or email. In order to reduce possible exposure to our employees, if you come in and want to talk to a sanitarian, we will ask the best way to follow up with you – by phone or email – and a staff person will contact you that way.
- A few things still require people to come into the department, such as picking up or dropping of water bottles, or dropping off an application. Please only come into the Health Department if you are healthy, with no symptoms of illness, especially coughing, fever or shortness of breath. Our front desk staff will try to maintain the social distancing practice of 6 feet separation between themselves and the customer, which we know we feel a little awkward, but it will help keep everyone healthier.
- You can schedule phone meetings and consultations with us by emailing envhealth@missoulacounty.us or calling 258-4755.
- Sanitarians will still do site evaluations, groundwater monitoring, complaint investigations, sanitation application reviews, site visits, building and zoning permit signoffs and will issue and inspect well and septic permits. Note, that if we are doing field work, and meet you on site, we'll observe the 6-foot social distancing separations. Again, a little awkward, but necessary to reduce the chance of disease transmission.

Thank you for your patience during this novel situation. By working together, we can flatten the curve of infection, while still getting you the information, permits, water results, and approvals that you need to move forward with your projects.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shannon Therriault".

Shannon Therriault, R.S.
Environmental Health Director