



**ORDER OF THE MISSOULA CITY-COUNTY HEALTH OFFICER
March 16, 2020**

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

WHEREAS, COVID-19, a respiratory disease that can result in serious illness or death and is a new strain of Coronavirus that had not been previously identified in humans and can easily spread from person-to-person;

WHEREAS, as of March 15, 2020, the United States Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) indicates there are over 1600 cases and 41 deaths in the United States;

WHEREAS, the CDC identifies the potential public health threat posed by COVID-19 both globally and in the United States as "high" and has advised that person-to-person spread of the COVID-19 will continue to occur globally, including within the United States, Montana, and Missoula County;

WHEREAS, most states in the United States are experiencing confirmed cases of COVID-19;

WHEREAS, the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) recognizes COVID-19 as a threat to the residents of Montana;

WHEREAS, there are two confirmed case of COVID-19 in Missoula County;

WHEREAS, the Missoula City-County Health Department has activated Incident Command and is implementing emergency response plans to this pandemic;

WHEREAS, proactively implementing mitigation measures to slow the spread of the virus is in the best interests of Missoula County and its people;



WHEREAS, the circumstances of this outbreak may exceed the capacity of the services, personnel, equipment, supplies and facilities of Missoula County and the major medical care centers located here;

WHEREAS, based upon all of the above, the Governor of the State of Montana, in consultation with public health authorities, has strongly recommended the limiting of all gatherings, specifically gatherings of more than 50 people;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 50-2-118 of the Montana Code Annotated, a local 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, including but not limited to ordering the closure of buildings or facilities where people congregate and cancelling events;

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,

- 1) All bars, brewery and distillery tasting rooms, and casinos in Missoula County are ordered closed to the public effective 8 am March, 17, 2020; and
- 2) All restaurants in Missoula County are ordered closed to the public effective 8 am March 17, 2020 with the exception of operation of walk-up, drive-through, take-out, or delivery;
- 3) Licensed food establishments that are the sole source of prepared food for certain populations, such as school, university, and hospital cafeterias are exempt from this order.
- 4) This order is in place until March 24 at 8 am and may be extended or modified.


Ellen Leahy RN, MN, MPH
Health Officer

Missoula City-County Health Department.

3-16-20
Date