



ORDER of the MISSOULA CITY & COUNTY HEALTH OFFICER
Requirements for Reopening Businesses and Events in Missoula County
May 28, 2020

WHEREAS, the State of Montana, Missoula County, and the City of Missoula are in a declared state of emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic;

WHEREAS, on May 19, 2020, the Governor issued a Directive with requirements and guidance for Phase Two of the phased reopening of Montana, to begin on June 1, 2020;

WHEREAS, the Governor's Directive sets forth a minimum set of statewide requirements in Phase Two that are enforceable by local public health jurisdictions;

WHEREAS, the Governor's Directive includes a group size limit of 50 people in circumstances that do not readily allow for appropriate social distancing and directs people planning events with more than 50 people to consult with the local health department on a plan to implement adequate social distancing;

WHEREAS, local jurisdictions can enact requirements that are more restrictive than State guidelines;

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;

WHEREAS, the Johns Hopkins' "Plan for a Phased Reopening Guided by Public Health Principles" assesses risk of coronavirus virus transmission at mass gatherings of all types as "high" and mitigation potential ranging from "medium to high" depending on the type of mass gathering;ⁱ

WHEREAS, CDC recognizes that "large events and mass gatherings can contribute to the spread of COVID-19 in the United States via travelers who attend these events and introduce the virus to new communities" and further recommends "cancel[ing] large gatherings (e.g., more than 250 people though threshold is at the discretion of the community)" if transmission of COVID-19 is at "minimal to moderate levels";ⁱⁱ

WHEREAS, in the absence of a curative treatment or a vaccine, maintaining six feet of distance between people is a primary means for preventing disease transmission and, the ability to quickly identify people who are contacts of a person with a positive COVID-19 test (also called contact tracing) is a fundamental responsibility for re-opening and a primary disease control measure, congregations of any size and type must provide means to meet these public health goals;ⁱⁱⁱ

WHEREAS, Missoula's local health officer, after researching additional mitigation measures, has determined that additional measures are required to limit contact between people in order to protect the public from imminent health threats and to implement the governor's directive at the local level;

THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

- 1) Effective June 1, 2020, events and gatherings, including but not limited to receptions, conventions, parties, meetings, fairs, festivals, craft fairs, farmer's markets, vendor events, concerts, sporting events, tournaments and races, whether they take place at a "place of assembly" or other venue, must meet the following requirements:
 - Events and gatherings are limited to a total of 50 people in circumstances that do not readily allow for appropriate physical distancing for the duration of the event, including but not limited to receptions, dances, sports, parades, and other events that are inherently inconducive to maintaining physical distancing.
 - Events and gatherings that will have a total of 51-250 people, including attendees, staff and volunteers, are allowed under the requirements listed in Appendix A. An internal COVID-19 event plan **is recommended** to ensure the event or gathering will meet the minimum requirements for events and gatherings in Appendix A.
 - Events and gatherings that will have a total of 251-1000 people, including attendees, staff and volunteers, are allowed under the requirements listed in Appendix A. An internal COVID-19 event plan **is required** to ensure the event or gathering will meet the minimum requirements for events and gatherings in Appendix A. The internal plans do **not** need to be submitted to the Health Department for review and approval but must be maintained onsite and made available to the Health Department upon request.
 - Events that will have a total of more than 1000 people, including attendees, staff and volunteers, must develop and submit a COVID-19 Event Plan to the Health Department for review and approval, in accordance with Appendix A. The event or gathering shall not take place without written approval from the Health Department.
 - Event organizers must follow their plan during the event, and make adjustments during the event or gathering, if necessary, to achieve physical distancing.
 - Event organizers must modify, scale back, postpone or cancel the event if notified by the Health Officer to do so.
- 2) Businesses and individuals providing grooming, beauty, body art, piercing, massage, spa and similar services, including but not limited to barbers (including barbers and barbers - nonchemical), cosmetologists, electrologists, estheticians, manicurists and massage therapists must meet the minimum requirements in Appendix B.

- 3) Businesses which are open to the public must:
 - a. Limit capacity to the degree necessary to ensure customers can adhere to 6-foot physical distancing; and
 - b. Have visible cues in place to alert customers of the visible distancing requirement and to denote the required six-foot separation distances.

- 4) In addition to the requirements in (3), Retail Businesses that are open to the public must have developed and implemented an individualized plan addressing the requirements in the Governor's Re-opening Directive and this Order, as evidenced by completing Appendix C. The completed appendix must be maintained on site and be made available to the Department upon request.

- 5) Dining areas in food and drink establishments such as restaurants, bars, breweries, distilleries and casinos shall:
 - a. Remain closed if the requirements and guidelines in the Governor's April 22, 2020 and May 19, 2020 Directives cannot be met; and
 - b. Provide for at least six feet of separation between diners, or groups of diners, including those sitting in booths.

- 6) These measures shall remain in effect until this order is revoked or revised based on review of epidemiological data, testing availability, and public health and medical capacity to control transmission of the virus and treat COVID-19 or unless more stringent measures are issued by the governor. Subsequent orders from the Governor and/or the Missoula City-County Health Officer instituting restrictions as a result of epidemiological data, such as an increase in COVID-19 cases, may result in required cancellations of events otherwise authorized in this Order and closures and further restrictions on establishments.

- 7) This Order supersedes previous COVID-19-related orders of the Missoula City-County Health Officer as they apply to events and businesses.

- 8) The requirements and restrictions in this Order are in addition to existing Directives by the Governor. Individuals and businesses should rely on this Order where any inconsistencies exist between this Order and an existing Governor's Directive.

Signed:



Ellen Leahy, RN, MN, MPH
Director & Health Officer

5-28-20

Date

ⁱ "A Plan for a Phased Reopening Guided by Public Health Principles: Guidance for Governors" Johns Hopkins Center for Biosecurity, April 17, 2020, pg. 18 <https://www.jhsph.edu/covid-19/articles/a-plan-for-a-phased-reopening-guided-by-public-health-principles.html> on May 27, 2020

ⁱⁱ Get Your Mass Gatherings or Large Community Events Ready Interim Guidance for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Guidance as of 3/15/2020 at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/large-events/mass-gatherings-ready-for-covid-19.html#postponing> on May 27, 2020

ⁱⁱⁱ "Guidelines: Opening Up American Again" White House and Centers for Disease Control April, 2020 at <https://www.whitehouse.gov/openingamerica/> on May 28, 2020; and "Health Departments: Interim Guidance on Developing a COVID-19 Case Investigation & Contact Tracing Plan" Centers for Disease Control at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/case-investigation-contact-tracing.pdf> May, 28, 2020