



**Beaverhead County Public Health**  
**41 Barrett Street**  
**Dillon, Montana 59725-4000**  
**Phone: (406)683-4771 Fax: (406)683-3188**

March 20, 2020

Order of the Health Officer

Whereas, the World Health Organization has declared the outbreak of COVID-19 a pandemic;

Whereas, all states in the United States have confirmed cases of COVID-19, and the number of cases and related deaths continue to rise;

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

Whereas, there are confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the state of Montana and in local counties;

Whereas, the Beaverhead County Unified Health Command has activated response plans and protocols to prepare for cases of COVID-19 in Beaverhead County;

Whereas, the Beaverhead County Unified Health Command has also worked to identify, contact, and test individuals who have potentially been exposed to COVID-19, in coordination with the state of Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services and the CDC;

Whereas, proactively implementing mitigation measures to slow the spread of the virus is in the best interest of Beaverhead County and its people;

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

Whereas, the CDC recognizes the potential public health threat posed by COVID-19 both globally and within 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 Beaverhead County;

Whereas the circumstances of this outbreak may exceed the capacity of services, personnel, equipment, supplies, and facilities of Beaverhead County;

Whereas, based on all of the above, in consultation with public health authorities, the President of the United States has recommended gatherings of no more than 10 people;

Whereas, the Governor of the state of Montana has directed closures of the following to ingress, egress, use, and occupancy by members of the public: Restaurants, food courts, cafes, coffeehouses, and other similar establishments offering food or beverage consumption. Alcoholic beverage service businesses,

including bars, taverns, brew pubs, breweries, microbreweries, distilleries, wineries, tasting rooms, special licensees, clubs, and other establishments offering alcoholic beverages for on-premises consumption; Cigar bars; Health clubs, health spas, gyms, aquatic centers, pools and hot springs, indoor facilities at ski areas, climbing gyms, fitness studios, and indoor recreational facilities; Movie and performance theaters, nightclubs, concert halls, bowling alleys, bingo halls, and music halls; Casinos.

Whereas, the Beaverhead City-County Board of Health has the duty to protect the public from the introduction and spread of communicable disease or other conditions of public health importance, including through actions to ensure the removal of filth or other contaminants that might cause disease or adversely affect public health;

Whereas, the Beaverhead City-County Board of Health has determined that the spread of COVID-19 constitutes a public health emergency and actions must be taken to avert and minimize the outbreak of this communicable disease;

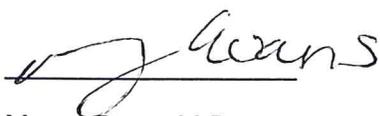
Whereas, pursuant to Section 50-2-118 of the Montana Code Annotated, a local health officer in carrying out the purpose of the public health system shall take steps to prevent contact between people in order to protect the public health from imminent threats, including but not limited to ordering the closure of buildings or facilities where people congregate, and cancelling events;

Whereas the Beaverhead City-County Board of Health has determined that the local health officer should institute her authority to close buildings and facilities to prevent the spread of COVID-19 within Beaverhead County, Montana.

Now, Therefore, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, pursuant to section 50, chapter 2, part 1, and specifically section 50-2-118 of the Montana Code Annotated,

In accordance with the directive by the Governor of the state of Montana, Beaverhead City-County Board of Health formally adopts the closures listed above, including faith organizations. No gatherings of more than 10 people.

Effective March 20, 2020 at 8pm, through March 27<sup>th</sup>, pending further guidance from the Governor of the state of Montana.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Megan Evans", written over a horizontal line.

Megan Evans, M.D.

Public Health Officer for Beaverhead County