



Beaverhead County Public Health
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Order of the Beaverhead County Health Officer
March 26, 2020

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 and includes the following:

- 1) Non-essential social and recreational gatherings of individuals outside of a home or place of residence of greater than ten people are prohibited, if a distance of at least six feet between individuals cannot be maintained. This includes weddings, funerals, and social events.
- 2) Parents should avoid, if possible, placing children for childcare with grandparents, family members, friends, or providers over the age of 60 or immunocompromised persons.

WHEREAS, the Governor of the state of Montana has directed closures of the following places to ingress, egress, use, and occupancy by members of the public:

- 1) Restaurants, food courts, cafes, coffeehouses, and other similar establishments offering food or beverage consumption.
- 2) 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;
- 3) Cigar bars;
- 4) Health clubs, health spas, gyms, aquatic centers, pools and hot springs, indoor facilities at ski areas, climbing gyms, fitness studios, and indoor recreational facilities;
- 5) Movie and performance theaters, nightclubs, concert halls, bowling alleys, bingo halls, and music halls;
- 6) Casinos.

The places subject to this Order are permitted to offer food and beverage using delivery, window, walk-up and drive through service. Walk-up services are required to keep customers at least six feet apart and allow no more than five people in inside an establishment for pick-up and each individual or party, such as a family with young children in tow, shall be kept at least six feet apart from each other at all times.

Customers may order and pay by telephone or online from a retailer or manufacturer licensed to sell alcoholic beverages in the State of Montana. A retailer or manufacturer licensed to sell alcoholic beverages in the State of Montana may deliver for sale the alcoholic beverages for which it is licensed. Delivery must be conducted by the licensee's employees over the age of 21 and age of the purchaser and recipient must be verified at the time of delivery. The purchased alcohol must be hand-delivered to the purchaser.

Effective immediately, the following establishment and activities in Beaverhead County shall be closed to the public:

- 1) All body art establishments;
- 2) All hair and cosmetic salons;
- 3) All massage services

Stores and all retail establishments in Beaverhead County not otherwise affected by this or any Governor's Directive shall maintain a separation of at least six feet between customers in line for assistance and check-out inside and outside the facility and shall establish, implement, and enforce social distancing policies.

Effective immediately, the following healthcare facilities shall implement CDC guidelines to reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19 to employees and patients.

- 1) Dental offices;
- 2) Vision offices;
- 3) Physical Therapy

Healthcare facilities and clinicians should prioritize urgent and emergency visits and procedures. The following actions can preserve staff, personal protective equipment, and patient care supplies; ensure staff and patient safety; and expand available hospital capacity during the COVID-19 pandemic:

- Delay elective surgical and procedural cases
- Postpone routine dental and eyecare visits
- Postpone non-emergent physical therapy visits

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 immediately March 26, 2020 through April 10, 2020, pending further guidance from the Governor of the state of Montana.



Megan Evans, M.D.
Health Officer
Beaverhead County

