ORDER OF HEALTH OFFICER
Effective November 1, 2020

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

WHEREAS, the President of the United States, in consultation with public health authorities, declared a National state of emergency on March 12, 2020;

WHEREAS, as of October 30, 2020, the John Hopkins Map indicates there are over 9,034,295 cases and more than 229,544 deaths in the United States;

WHEREAS, every state 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, as of October 30, 2020, there are 31,916 cases in the State of Montana which include 364 COVID-19 related deaths;

WHEREAS, as of October 30, 2020, the total number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in Cascade County is up to 2,168;

WHEREAS, the Cascade City-County Health Department has activated response plans and protocols to prepare for cases of COVID-19 in Cascade County:

WHEREAS, the Cascade City-County Health Department has also worked to identify, contact, and test individuals in Cascade County who have been potentially 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 interests of Cascade County and its people;

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, 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 Cascade County;

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

WHEREAS, the Cascade City-County Health Department and the Public Health Officer for Cascade County have 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 Public Health Officer has determined that the potential 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, based upon all of the above, the Governor of the State of Montana, in consultation with public health authorities, on April 22, 2020 implemented a plan titled "Reopening the Big Sky: A Phased Approach" ("Plan");

WHEREAS, on July 15, 2020, the Governor of the State of Montana issued an order requiring, under certain circumstances, the use of masks ("Mask Order");

WHEREAS, the Plan provided specific, phased circumstances under which it is expected the State of Montana and its people may begin the process of opening previously closed or altered businesses, organizations and workplaces;

WHEREAS, the Plan provides local Health Officers the ability to analyze the spread of COVID-19 within their own communities and adjust the Plan as necessary;
WHEREAS, many of the safeguards implemented have been demonstrated not sufficient to curb the spread of COVID-19 in Cascade County;

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:

Effective at 8:00 AM MDT on November 1, 2020 for the period of time up to and until the rate of new COVID-19 infections is at or below 25/100,000 for four (4) consecutive weeks. The following shall be required, subject to any noted exceptions:

- Occupancy for all restaurants, food courts, cafes, coffee houses, bars, brew pubs, taverns, breweries, microbreweries, distilleries, wineries, tasting rooms, special licensees, clubs, casinos, gyms and movie theaters:
  - shall be required to close for inside business no later than 12:30 AM as issued under Governor's directives.
  - All such businesses shall continue to maintain all and maintain adherence with all other requirements of the Governor’s Mask and Phase Two Directives including but not limited to social distance, face covering requirements, and all commitments made under reopening plans for dine-in services.
  - shall be required to operate at 50% or less of their maximum occupancy.
Drive-through and delivery for food service only can continue past 12:30 AM.

Except as otherwise indicated below, all group physical gatherings, assemblies and events, including but not limited to all businesses, organizations, and private gatherings, shall be limited to no more than 50 individuals, regardless of the ability to physically distance, the location, whether indoor or outdoor and shall require face coverings and physical distancing as issued under the Governor's directive:

- Houses of worship may exceed group size of 50, subject to a limit of 75% of the facility's capacity and must comply at all times with the Governor's Directives including but not limited to physical distancing and face covering requirements.

- Food service establishments that serve a population that depends on it as one of its sole sources of food, including university dining facility or cafeterias in K-12 schools, hospital and care facilities, room service in hotels, crisis shelters or similar institutions, airport concessionaires, and any facilities necessary for the response to the emergency, all of which may continue to operate using necessary-only personnel.

- Per the Governor of Montana, local school districts and their activities (both academic and extracurricular) shall be governed by the local districts and school boards for all school-related activities.
- Youth activities shall comply with the directives currently in place by the Governor of Montana.

- In-person voting on November 3, 2020 and regular Judicial Court proceedings with compliance at all times with the Governor’s Directives including but not limited to physical distancing and face covering requirements.

- Childcare facilities, in recognition of their critical role in supporting a necessary workforce.

- All public meetings conducted by, staffed by, or held in the facilities of the city, the county or the school district will comply with the state and local guidelines for indoor gatherings. Those with medical, religious, or other reasons for not wearing masks will be provided the opportunity to participate through telephonic or electronic means.

- In addition to the requirements described hereinabove, it is the recommendation of the Local Public Health Officer that the following control measures be adopted and implemented, in recognition of the need to significantly reduce the high level of COVID-19 and its transmission in Cascade County and the region served by Cascade County's healthcare providers:

  - When possible and operationally feasible, Cascade County employers should encourage and allow employees to work remotely.

  - Cascade County residents should limit their number of close, non-household contacts to no more than six (6) persons per week, as well as limiting
the duration of close, non-household
contacts to less than fifteen 15
minutes whenever possible.

- Where possible, Cascade County
residents are encouraged to utilize
contact-free services of businesses,
including but not limited to drive-
through and take-out food services,
contactless delivery, and the like.

- When Cascade County residents have to
leave their homes, residents are
encouraged to minimize the number of
trips, locations, and time to the
greatest extent possible.

- Cascade County residents should be very
vigilant in adhering to physical
distancing requirements and
recommendations, mask use requirements
and recommendations, hand hygiene and
surface sanitation procedures, and
staying home and away from others when
sick.

Trisha Gardner
Health Officer
Cascade City-County Health Department

Dated: October 30, 2020