

ORDER OF HEALTH OFFICER
Effective November 20, 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 November 19, 2020, the John Hopkins Map indicates there are over 11,667,719 cases and more than 251,892 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 November 19, 2020, there are 51,818 cases in the State of Montana which include 561 COVID-19 related deaths;

WHEREAS, as of November 19, 2020, the total number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in Cascade County is up to 4,344;

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 provides local Health Officers the ability to analyze the spread of COVID-19 within their own communities and adjust the Plan as necessary;

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, effective November 1, 2020 the Cascade County Public Health Officer issued an order limiting occupancy for bars,