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,
restaurants and other related establishments and limited group gatherings, assemblies and the like until such time as new COVID-19 infections in Cascade County are at or below 25/100,000 for four (4) consecutive weeks;

WHEREAS, on November 17, 2020, the Governor of the State of Montana issued an order, effective 5:00 a.m. November 20, 2020, limiting size for public gatherings and events and limiting bar and restaurant capacity and hours;

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:

1. The Governor’s November 17, 2020, titled “Directive Implementing Executive Orders 2-2020 and 3-2020 and Limiting Size For Public Gatherings and Events and Limiting Bar and Restaurant Capacity and Hours” is hereby specifically adopted in its entirety and incorporated herein verbatim by reference.

2. Effective at 5:00 AM MDT on November 20, 2020 for the period of time up to and until the later of (a) the rate of new COVID-19 infections is at or below 25/100,000 for four (4) consecutive weeks or (b) the expiration of the Governor’s declared state of emergency in Executive Orders 2-2020 and 3-2020, the following shall be required, subject to any noted exceptions:

A. 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 and have all patrons out no later than 10:00 PM as issued under the Governor's directives, and may reopen after 4:00 AM.

- All such businesses shall continue to maintain all and maintain adherence with all other requirements of the Governor's Mask, Phase Two and November 17, 2020 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

• Tables must be limited to six people per table

• Drive-through and delivery for food service only can continue past 10:00 PM.

B. Except as otherwise indicated below, regardless of the location, whether indoor or outdoor, all group physical gatherings, assemblies and events, including but not limited to all businesses, organizations, and private gatherings, shall require face coverings and physical distancing as issued under the Governor’s directive and be limited to (a) no more than 25 individuals where it is not possible to practice social distancing or where social distancing is not being practiced; and (b) 50 individuals where it is possible to practice social distancing and where social distancing is being practiced:

• 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.

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

C. 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.

3. 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.

4. These Orders may be modified and/or expanded, and the effective dates may be extended by future directives of the Cascade County Health Officer.

5. These Orders may be modified and/or expanded and may be pre-empted by future directives of the Governor of the State of Montana that are stricter than those contained within this Order of the Cascade County Health Officer.

Dated: November 19, 2020

Trisha Gardner
Health Officer
Cascade City-County Health Department