



CITY-COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

115 4th Street South, Great Falls, MT 59401 • 406-454-6950

NEWS RELEASE

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Board of Health Adopts Local Mask Order & Updates Event Venue Capacities

Great Falls, MT – Yesterday (2/17) evening, the Cascade County Board of Health convened a special meeting regarding local control measures for COVID-19, making changes to the measures implemented in the most recent 1/21/21 Order of Health Officer.

The [1/21/21 Order of Health Officer](#) ordered limitations on (1) occupancy and hours for bars, restaurants, and other related establishments, as well as on (2) group gatherings, assemblies, and the like, until the case rate of new COVID-19 infections in Cascade County was at or below 25/100,000 for four consecutive weeks.

As of yesterday, 2/17/21, Cascade County achieved that goal of four consecutive weeks with a case rate of 25/100,000 or less, and thus all restrictions on business hours and capacity have been lifted, and venue capacity for special events/gatherings has been increased.

However, two control measures were then adopted at the special Board of Health meeting last night (below). These measures are effective immediately and will remain in place until the per capita spread of the virus is at or below 10 per 100,000 for two consecutive weeks.

The Board of Health voted that they and Health Officer Trisha Gardner would:

1. **Issue a local order for Cascade County requiring universal masking**, except under the following conditions:
 - Children under the age of five (all children between the ages of two and four, however, are strongly encouraged to wear a face covering, but children under the age of two should not wear a face covering);



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- Persons consuming food or drinks in an establishment that offers food or drinks for sale;
 - Persons engaged in an activity that makes wearing a face covering impractical or unsafe, such as strenuous physical exercise or swimming;
 - Persons seeking to communicate with someone who is hearing impaired; persons giving a speech or engaging in an artistic, cultural, musical, or theatrical performance for an audience, provided the audience is separated by at least six feet of distance;
 - Persons temporarily removing their face covering for identification purposes;
 - Persons required to remove face coverings for the purpose of receiving medical evaluation, diagnosis, or treatment;
 - Persons who have a medical condition precluding the safe wearing of a face covering; or
 - Persons who can maintain social distancing when outside their home or place of employment.
2. **Allow gatherings & events of up to 75% of an event venue's capacity when social distancing can be maintained.** Events over 75% of venue capacity will be considered on a case-by-case basis with the submission of an event plan to CCHD.

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For media opportunities, call Anna Attaway: 406-217-8578

If you are a member of the public, please call 406-454-6950