

ORDER OF CASCADE CITY COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
AND
PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER

EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY

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 February 18, 2021, the John Hopkins Map indicates there are over 21,829,771 cases and more than 490,775 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 February 18, 2021, there are 98,100 cases in the State of Montana which include 1337 COVID-19 related deaths;

WHEREAS, as of February 18, 2021, the total number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in Cascade County is up to 7544;

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, local Health Officer and Board of Health have the ability to analyze the spread of COVID-19 within the community and implement local control measures;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 50-2-116(1) of the Montana Code Annotated, in order to carry out the purposes of the public health system, each local board of health shall identify, assess, prevent, and ameliorate conditions of public health importance; protect the public from the introduction and spread of communicable disease or other conditions of public health importance; and issue written orders for compliance or for correction, destruction or removal of the conditions;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 50-2-116(2) of the Montana Code Annotated, local boards of health may adopt regulations that do not conflict with 50-59-126 or rules

adopted by the department for the control of communicable diseases;

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, on February 12, 2021, Montana Governor Greg Gianforte issued an order (Order) further repealing directives previously issued by former Governor Steve Bullock, including but not limited to the requirement for citizens to wear face coverings ("Mask Mandate");

Whereas, the Order provides local Health Authorities the ability to analyze the spread of COVID-19 within their own communities and adopt local enforcement protocols as necessary, only to the extent that such local protocols are not less restrictive;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED by the Cascade City-County Board of Health and Public Officer, pursuant to Title 50, Chapter 2, Part 1, and specifically Sections 50-2-116 and 118 of the Montana Code Annotated, respectively:

Effective immediately and for the period of time up to and until the rate of new COVID-19 infections is at or below 10/100,000 for two weeks. The following shall be required, subject to any noted exceptions:

- All persons shall wear a mask or facial covering except if the following conditions apply:
 - Children under the age of five. All children between the ages of two and four, however, are strongly encouraged to wear a face covering. Children under the age of two should not wear a face covering;
 - Persons consuming food or drinks in an establishment that offers food or drinks for sale;

- o Persons engaged in an activity that makes wearing a face covering impractical or unsafe, such as strenuous physical exercise or swimming;
 - o Persons seeking to communicate with someone who is hearing impaired;
 - o 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;
 - o Persons temporarily removing their face covering for identification purposes;
 - o Persons required to remove face coverings for the purpose of receiving medical evaluation, diagnosis, or treatment; or
 - o Persons who have a medical condition precluding the safe wearing of a face covering.
 - o People who can maintain social distancing when outside their home or place of employment
- Event attendance limitations of 75% of a venue capacity when social distancing can be maintained. Events with attendance over 75% of venue capacity will be considered on a case-by-case basis with the submission of an event plan to CCHD.
 - This Order rescinds and replaces all prior Orders of the Cascade City County Board of Health and Public Health Officer.
 - This Order may be modified and/or expanded, and the effective date may be extended by future Order of the Cascade City County Board of Health and/or Public Health Officer.
 - This Order 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 herein.

In addition to the requirements described herein, it is the recommendation of the Local Public Health Officer and Board of Health 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:

1. Whenever and wherever possible ALL business and places of employment or gatherings continue social distancing and consider reduced capacity to accommodate social distancing.
2. Whenever and wherever possible ALL businesses and places of employment or gatherings continue universal mask usage.
3. Whenever and wherever possible ALL businesses and places of employment or gatherings continue all recommended sanitation and cleaning practices.
4. When possible and operationally feasible, Cascade County employers encourage and allow employees to work remotely (telework).
5. Whenever possible, Cascade County residents limit their number of close, non-household contacts, as well as limiting the duration of close, non-household contacts.
6. Whenever possible, Cascade County residents utilize contact-free services of businesses, including but not limited to drive-through and take-out food services, non-contact delivery options, and the like.
7. When Cascade County residents must leave their homes, residents should minimize the number of trips, locations, and time of interaction, AND practice the safety protocols of wearing a mask, social distancing, following surface sanitation procedures, and washing their hands upon return home.
8. Cascade County residents shall stay home when sick.

9. Continued education to the public on general guidelines for maintaining safe work and home environments through mask wearing, social distancing, following sanitation procedures and washing hands.

Dated: February 18, 2021



Owen Robinson
Chairman
Cascade City-County Board of Health



Trisha Gardner
Public Health Officer
Cascade City-County Health Department