

NEWS RELEASE March 17, 2021 CONTACT

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## **COVID-19 Restrictions in Cascade County Lifted**

*Great Falls, MT* – The Cascade City-County Health Department is pleased to announce that, for a second consecutive week, Cascade County has maintained a COVID-19 case rate of equal to or less than 10 per 100,000.

As stated in the <u>February 17, 2021 Order of Health Officer</u>, two weeks at or below this case rate was the trigger for lifting COVID-19 restrictions in Cascade County. This week, we achieved a rate of 9.6 per 100,000.

Effective immediately, the mask mandate and 75% capacity restrictions on events and gatherings have been lifted.

While event size limits and the mask mandate are no longer in effect, it is critically important that our community members remember what got us to this point: social distancing, wearing face coverings, limiting capacity, and other common-sense practices like frequent hand-washing and staying home when sick. These best practices have resulted in our daily case rate dropping to the current level, and CCHD still recommends that these practices be implemented.

Please be mindful that now, although lifting restrictions is a good sign for our community, businesses, schools, and other agencies have the right to implement stricter requirements to protect their stakeholders and staff.

The City-County Health Department, in consultation with the Board of Health, will continue to closely monitor the COVID-19 situation in our community.