

ORDER OF HEALTH OFFICER

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 April 1, 2020, the John Hopkins Map indicates there are over 190,000 cases and more than 4,100 deaths in the United States;

WHEREAS, most states 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 April 1, 2020, there are 208 confirmed COVID-19 cases in the State of Montana which include 5 COVID-19 related deaths;

WHEREAS, as of April 1, 2020, the total of confirmed COVID-19 cases in Cascade County is to 9;

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, based upon all of the above, the Governor of the State of Montana, in consultation with public health authorities, issued Executive Orders 2-2020 and 3-2020 on March 12 and 13, respectively, declaring a that a state of emergency exists in Montana due to the global outbreak of COVID-19 Novel Coronavirus;

WHEREAS, the Health Officer for Cascade County determined on March 16, 2020, that she should institute her authority to close buildings and facilities to prevent the spread of COVID-19 within Cascade County, Montana, and issued a Public Health Order which closed to the public, effective 6:00 a.m. Tuesday, March 17, 2020 through Monday, March 23, 2020 at 8:00 a.m. all bars, breweries, distilleries, casinos, restaurants, and gyms, with the exception of drive-through, delivery and pick-up services, within Cascade County, Montana;

WHEREAS, March 15, 2020 the Governor of the State of Montana directed the closure of all non-residential public schools in Montana through March 27, 2020;

WHEREAS, on March 20, 2020, the Governor of the State of Montana issued a directive that certain business be restricted temporarily from typical on-premises business by members of the public through March 27, 2020;

WHEREAS, on March 24, 2020, the Governor of the State of Montana issued three (3) new Directives Implementing Executive Orders 2-2020 and 3-2020, specifically "extending closures and updating social distancing requirements and guidance; providing for measures to combat the spread of COVID-19 via food and beverage services or casinos; and providing measures for the operation of local government" effective March 28, 2020 through April 10, 2020;

WHEREAS, on March 25, 2020, the Governor of the State of Montana issued an additional Directive, effective immediately, Implementing Executive Orders 2-2020 and 3-2020 providing measures to implement the 2020 June primary election safely;

WHEREAS, the Health Officer for Cascade County determined on March 26, 2020, that she should institute her authority to close buildings and facilities to prevent the spread of COVID-19 within Cascade County, Montana, and issued a revised Public Health Order which adopted verbatim the Governor's Directives Implementing Executive Orders 2-2020 and 3-2020, specifically "extending closures and updating social distancing requirements and guidance; providing for measures to combat the spread of COVID-19 via food and beverage services or casinos; providing measures for the operation of local government; and providing measures to implement the 2020 June primary election safely" effective March 28, 2020 through April 10, 2020, within Cascade County, Montana;

WHEREAS, on March 26, 2020, the Governor of the State of Montana issued an additional Directive, effective immediately, Implementing Executive Orders 2-2020 and 3-2020 providing measures to stay at home and designating certain essential functions;

WHEREAS, on March 30, 2020, the Governor of the State of Montana issued an additional Directive, effective immediately, Implementing Executive Orders 2-2020 and 3-2020 providing mandatory quarantine for certain travelers arriving in Montana from another state or country;

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 and;

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, the Health Officer has determined that she should institute her authority to limit contact between people, close buildings and facilities to prevent the spread of COVID-19 within Cascade County, Montana.

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. **Effective Immediately** in Cascade County and until 11:59 p.m. April 10, 2020:

a. The Governor's March 26, 2020 Directive Implementing Executive Orders 2-2020 and 3-2020 providing measures to stay at home and designating certain essential functions is hereby specifically adopted in its entirety and incorporated herein verbatim by reference; and

b. The Governor's March 30, 2020 Directive Implementing Executive Orders 2-2020 and 3-2020 Providing For providing mandatory quarantine for certain travelers arriving in Montana from another state or country is hereby specifically adopted in its entirety and incorporated herein verbatim by reference;

2. These Orders are in addition to and do not supplant or replace previous Orders issued by the Public Health Officer dated March 16 and March 26, 2020.

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

4. 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: April 1, 2020

Trisha Gardner
Health Officer
Cascade City-County Health Department