



CITY-COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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**NEWS RELEASE**

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**Cascade County Imposes Restrictions on Licensed Establishments**

*Great Falls, MT* — Tuesday evening, Cascade City-County Board of Health met to discuss COVID-19 and its potential effect on licensed establishments such as bars and restaurants. After considering impacts to both the health and economy of our community, the decision was made *not* to order businesses to close at this time.

However, CCHD and the Board of Health are aware that bold measures are needed at local, state, and federal levels to protect the health of the public. City-County Health Officer, Trisha Gardner, notes that “control measures may have to be implemented quickly or with no warning as the COVID-19 situation evolves.” Businesses should immediately begin preparing to modify their day-to-day operations or even close temporarily.

A task force was formed—including employees of CCHD’s Environmental Health Division and several local business owners—to develop clear guidance in the event that the health department imposes restrictions on businesses.

Gardner directs businesses to consider the following options:

- Close any areas where large groups could congregate or would be in unavoidably close vicinity to each other (e.g. private dining rooms or meeting rooms)
- Determine alternate ways of providing services like take-out, delivery, or drive-thru
- Change face-to-face or walk-in services to be conducted by phone or email
- Let employees work remotely whenever possible, especially older or high-risk employees
- Hold meetings virtually whenever possible
- Distance employees from each other by rearranging workspaces
- Send sick employees home & develop generous sick leave policies as possible
- Research online services your business could provide

Cascade City-County Health Department is already implementing similar measures at their agency, and Gardner implores residents to do their part to protect our community.

For more information, check [www.cchdmt.org](http://www.cchdmt.org) or Facebook for daily updates. You can also call 406-454-6950 with any questions or concerns.

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For media opportunities, please contact Anna Attaway at 415-590-0916 (cell) or 406-791-2063 (office)