

ORDER OF HEALTH OFFICER

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization has declared the worldwide outbreak of COVID-19 Novel Coronavirus a pandemic;

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, there are confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the State of Montana;

WHEREAS, the Hill County Health Department has activated response plans and protocols to prepare for cases of COVID-19 in Hill County:

WHEREAS, the Hill County Health Department has also worked to identify, contact, and recommend testing to individuals in Hill 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 Hill 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, and Montana;

WHEREAS, the circumstances of this outbreak may exceed the capacity of the services, personnel, equipment, supplies and facilities of Hill County;

WHEREAS, based upon all of the above, the Governor of the State of Montana, in consultation with public health authorities, has strongly recommended the limiting of all gatherings, specifically gatherings of more than 50 people;

WHEREAS, the Hill County Board of Health has 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 Hill County Board of Health 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 Hill County Board of Health has determined that the local health officer should institute her authority to close buildings and facilities to prevent the spread of COVID-19 within Hill 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,

All bars, breweries, distilleries, casinos, and restaurants, with the exception of drive-through, delivery and pick-up services, within Hill County, Montana, shall be closed to the public. All gyms, athletic clubs, fitness studios, and yoga studios shall limit attendance to 10 people, inclusive of staff. This order shall be effective at 12:00 p.m. Tuesday, March 17, 2020 through Tuesday, March 24, 2020 at 12:00 p.m., pending further notification.



Jessica Sheehy PA-C

HEALTH OFFICER FOR HILL COUNTY, MONTANA