

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
STATE OF MONTANA

Steve Bullock  
Governor



Mike Cooney  
Lt. Governor

**TO:** Montanans, all officers and agencies of the State of Montana  
**FROM:** Governor Steve Bullock  
**DATE:** March 30, 2020  
**RE:** Directive Implementing Executive Orders 2-2020 and 3-2020 and providing mandatory quarantine for certain travelers arriving in Montana from another state or country

Executive Orders 2-2020 and 3-2020 declare that a state of emergency exists in Montana due to the global outbreak of COVID-19 Novel Coronavirus.

Section 10-5-104(2)(a), MCA, authorizes the Governor, during a state of emergency, to "suspend the provisions of any regulatory statute prescribing the procedures for conduct of state business or action or rules of any state agency if the strict compliance with the provisions of any statute, order, or rule would in any way prevent, hinder, or delay necessary action in coping with the emergency or disaster." Further, it authorizes the Governor to "control ingress and egress to and from an incident or emergency or disaster area, the movement of persons within the area, and the occupancy of premises within the area." Section 10-5-104(2)(c), MCA. During a state of emergency, the Governor "is commander-in-chief of the militia and of all other forces available for incident, emergency, or disaster duty." Section 10-5-105(1), MCA.

Montana's public health laws authorize the Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS or Department), acting under the Governor's direction, to "issue written orders for correction" of "conditions of public health importance," to "prevent and mitigate conditions of public health importance" through measures including "isolation and quarantine" and "abatement of public health nuisances." Section 50-1-201, MCA. The Department, under the Governor's direction, may also take action to correct public health deficiencies in "buildings or facilities where persons assemble." Section 50-1-203, MCA. The Department, under the Governor's direction, is also authorized to impose quarantine and isolation measures to protect public health. Section 50-1-204, MCA. Montana law provides that these authorities will be utilized to respond to an "outbreak of disease," § 50-3-005(4), MCA, and to "limit the transmission of the communicable disease." See, e.g., § 50-1-101(1), MCA.

COVID-19 is an easily transmissible, potentially fatal respiratory disease caused by a novel coronavirus. COVID-19 is a contagion that most frequently spreads person-to-person. The virus may live on surfaces and remain in the air after someone coughs or sneezes for an unknown period of time, creating a range of opportunities for exposure. Exposure can also happen when a person touches a surface or object that has the live virus on it and then touches one's face. To control the spread of COVID-19, it is necessary to ensure all persons within the State of Montana practice social distancing to the greatest extent possible.

Accordingly, to limit the opportunity of COVID-19 transmission through children, on March 15, 2020, I issued a Directive closing schools and limiting morning sessions. To limit the spread of COVID-19 in places where people commonly congregate, on March 20, 2020, I ordered restaurants, bars, breweries, gyms and health clubs, casinos, music and performance theaters, and similar businesses to close except in limited circumstances. And on March 25, 2020, I issued a Directive requiring all Montanans to stay