

## ORDER OF HEALTH OFFICER

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

WHEREAS, as of March 18, 2020, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention indicates there are over 7000 cases and 97 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, there are confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the State of Montana;

WHEREAS, the Flathead County Incident Command has activated response plans and protocols to prepare for cases of COVID-19 in Flathead County;

WHEREAS, proactively implementing mitigation measures to slow the spread of the virus is in the best interests of Flathead 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 Flathead County;

WHEREAS, the circumstances of this outbreak may exceed the capacity of the services, personnel, equipment, supplies and facilities of Flathead 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 Flathead City-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 Flathead City-County Board of Health has determined that the potential spread of COVID-19 constitutes an emergency and an imminent threat to public health 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 Flathead City-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 the County of Flathead, 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: All bars, breweries, wineries, distilleries, restaurants, casinos, gyms, fitness facilities, athletic centers, workout studios, ice skating rinks, indoor climbing venues, indoor sporting arenas, cinemas, and theatres shall be closed to the public effective at 6:00 a.m. Friday, March 20, 2020 through Monday, March 30, 2020 at 8:00 a.m. pending further notification.**

**2: Notwithstanding the foregoing, restaurants, grills, or kitchens may operate on a limited basis by providing service via take-out, drive-through, and/or delivery. Restaurants that maintain dining room facilities in**

addition to take-out, drive-through and/or delivery operations must close their dining room operations.

3. Breweries, distilleries, and wineries may continue to make alcoholic beverages, but may not operate tasting rooms, or otherwise serve non-sealed alcoholic beverages to the public.

4: Food service establishments which provide the primary meal sources for a population that lives or works within its buildings, such as cafeterias in hospital and care facilities may remain open to the population such an establishment serves.

5. This Order does not apply to grocery stores or deli counters within grocery stores, or to convenience stores. Convenience stores with combined restaurants shall close their dining room facilities.

7: This Order does not apply to licensed physical therapy practices, provided that such practices exercise appropriate social distancing.

8: Violations of this rule shall be punished pursuant to Sections 50-2-123 Montana Code Annotated.

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Hillary Hanson  
HEALTH OFFICER  
FLATHEAD COUNTY

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Tamalee St. James Robinson  
CHAIR  
FLATHEAD CITY-COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH