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October 14, 2020

National City County Health Board
8000 W. Anderson Street
Kalispell, Montana 59801

Re: Proposed tightened restrictions on crowd sizes due to rising COVID-19 cases

Letter and Comment

The Kalispell Chamber appreciates the work of the National City County Health Board to curb the rapidly rising cases of COVID-19 reported in National County since March, and especially in the last few weeks. We believe it is the responsibility of every citizen to follow state and county guidelines to curb the spread of COVID-19.

Nevertheless, we encourage you to reconsider your proposed regulations which would tighten crowd sizes in bars and restaurants to a maximum of 25 people and reduce the capacity in these establishments to 25% of capacity, by the measures:

- There are the costs and consequences to our community for overusing regulations which create fatigue and unemployment and the closure of bars and restaurants. The vast majority of these establishments are being a good job with safe practices around COVID-19.
- The October 13th newspaper report on the topic cited evidence from what caused the greatest events, meetings, political events, and trade shows. Let's not prohibit bars and restaurants for months in which they are not closed.
- There are far fewer resources available to businesses and the unemployed now than when the original restrictions were implemented in March. The legal processes that has required, management benefits are less, regulations on the floor a relief package have broken off with little hope of any relief before the deadline.
- Every's Mitigation Plan a sub-report on transmission records. The article reports that the greatest risk from ongoing activity is occurring from "schools, medical long facilities, and long term care facilities but outdoors in other settings, such as correctional facilities, group homes, and mental health facilities have also been reported". Restaurants and bars are not referenced in the article or analogous settings to have caused clusters of new cases.

Medical professionals agree that we have entered a phase where an unprecedented community spread of the coronavirus. It is everyone's responsibility to follow public health guidelines so that children can attend school, businesses can stay open, and employees can earn a living. Let's not unfairly single out certain industry sectors and their employees for what is a community-wide healthcare challenge. We urge you to table these proposed regulations.

Tommy

Tommy
October 14, 2020

