

**ORDER OF HEALTH OFFICER**  
**March 18, 2020**

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

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, as of March 16, 2020, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) indicates there are over 3,400 cases and 68 deaths in the United States;

WHEREAS, the CDC identifies the potential public health threat posed by COVID-19 both globally and in the United States as "high" and has advanced that person-to-person spread of the COVID-19 will continue to occur globally, including within the United States, Montana, and Stillwater County;

WHEREAS, all 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, the Stillwater County Health Department has activated Unified Command and is implementing emergency response plans and protocols to prepare for cases in Stillwater County;

WHEREAS, the Stillwater County Unified Command has also worked to identify, contact, and test individuals in Stillwater 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 and containment measures to slow the spread of the virus is in the best interests of Stillwater County and its people;

WHEREAS, 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 circumstances of this outbreak may exceed the capacity of the services, personnel, equipment, supplies and facilities of Stillwater 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 avoiding gatherings of more than 50 people;

WHEREAS, the Stillwater 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, Stillwater County's Health Officer 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;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 50-2-118 of the Montana Code Annotated, a local health officer in carrying out the purpose of 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; and,

WHEREAS, the local health officer should institute his authority to close buildings and facilities to prevent the spread of COVID-19 within the Country of Stillwater, 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:

**Effective at 9 pm MST on Wednesday March 18, 2020 for a period of time up to and through midnight April 1, 2020:**

- 1. All bars, brew pubs, wineries, casinos, and restaurants shall close at 9 pm, or earlier based on the discretion and normal operating hours of each establishment.**
- 2. All bars, brew pubs, wineries, casinos, and restaurants shall limit customers to 20 customers in each establishment at one time.**
- 3. All food service operations that serve a population that depends on it as one of its sole sources of food, such as cafeterias in hospital and care facilities and schools, may continue to operate using necessary-only personnel.**
- 4. This order is effective at 9:00 am Wednesday, March 18, 2020 through, Wednesday April 1, 2020 at midnight pending further notifications.**

Dr. Cody White, D.O.

HEALTH OFFICER FOR COUNTY OF STILLWATER, MONTANA