

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 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, 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 is at least one confirmed case of COVID-19 in Yellowstone County;

WHEREAS, the Yellowstone County Unified Health Command has activated response plans and protocols to prepare for additional cases of COVID-19 in Yellowstone County;

WHEREAS, the Yellowstone County Unified Health Command has also worked to identify, contact, and test individuals in Yellowstone 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 Yellowstone 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 Yellowstone County;

WHEREAS, the circumstances of this outbreak may exceed the capacity of the services, personnel, equipment, supplies and facilities of Yellowstone 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 City-County of Yellowstone's 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, Yellowstone 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 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; and,

WHEREAS, the local health officer should institute his authority to close buildings and facilities to prevent the spread of COVID-19 within the County of Yellowstone, 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 8 am MST on Tuesday March 17, 2020 for a period of time up to and through midnight March 23, 2020:

- All bars, brew pubs, wineries, and casinos in Yellowstone County shall be closed.
- All food service operations, subject to the exceptions below, in Yellowstone County shall be closed except:
 - While remaining closed to dine-in customers, food service operations may continue to provide for take-out and delivery services.
 - Food service establishments that serve a population that depends on it as one of its sole sources of food, such a university dining facility or cafeterias in hospital and care facilities, may continue to operate using necessary-only personnel.

This order is effective at 4:00 p.m. Monday, March 16, 2020 through Monday, March 23, 2020 at midnight pending further notification.



JOHN FELTON

HEALTH OFFICER FOR CITY-COUNTY OF YELLOWSTONE, MONTANA