

**ORDER OF HEALTH OFFICER REGARDING
PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES**

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

WHEREAS, as of April 27, 2020, the Johns Hopkins Map indicates that, due to COVID-19, there are more than 972,969 cases and 55,118 deaths in the United States;

WHEREAS, every state in the United States is 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 449 cases of COVID-19 in the State of Montana, 14 fatalities in the state, and 11 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Butte-Silver Bow County;

WHEREAS, the Butte-Silver Bow Public Health Command has activated response plans and protocols to prepare for cases of COVID-19 in Butte-Silver Bow;

WHEREAS, the Butte-Silver Bow Public Health Command has also worked to identify, contact and test individuals in Butte-Silver Bow who have been potentially exposed to COVID-19 in coordination with DPHHS and the CDC;

WHEREAS, proactively implementing mitigation measures to slow the spread of the virus is in the best interests of Butte-Silver Bow 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 Butte-Silver Bow;

WHEREAS, the circumstances of this outbreak may exceed the capacity of the services, personnel, equipment, supplies and facilities of Butte-Silver Bow;

WHEREAS, the Butte-Silver Bow 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 Butte-Silver Bow Board of Health 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;

WHEREAS, the Butte-Silver Bow Board of Health has determined that the local health officer should institute her authority to prevent the spread of COVID-19 within Butte-Silver Bow;

WHEREAS, based upon all of the above, the governor of the State of Montana, in consultation with public health authorities, had previously announced a stay-at-home directive for the state;

WHEREAS, the governor then announced a phased reopening of the state;

WHEREAS, the governor's "Reopening the Big Sky" phased approach says that all individuals not sharing a household, when in public, should maximize physical distance from others;

WHEREAS, the governor's phased approach says individuals should avoid gathering in groups of more than 10 people in circumstances that do not readily allow for appropriate physical distancing;

WHEREAS, the governor's phased approach says outdoor recreational sites can become operational if sites adhere to strict physical distancing between groups and exercise frequent sanitation protocols if public facilities are open;

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to Title 50, Chapter 2, Part 1, and specifically Section 50-2-118 of the Montana Code Annotated, the Butte-Silver Bow health officer hereby orders the opening of playgrounds, outdoor sports courts and playing fields, including the opening and maintenance of restrooms where they are available and the sanitization of restrooms once daily. All Butte-Silver Bow public parks, open space parks, trails, outdoor sports courts, baseball and softball fields, and the city-county's golf course, will open officially Tuesday, April 28, 2020 for citizens to participate in outdoor activity while maintaining a six-foot distance between users who are unrelated. Softball and baseball teams are allowed to practice, limiting space between players; coaches will pay particular attention to equipment sanitizing. No games or scrimmages will be allowed during Phase 1 of the governor's phased reopening. All users of Butte-Silver Bow parks, trails and open space parks must follow CDC health guidelines and practice social distancing as they spend time in those venues. The public is asked to understand that there is risk to using shared equipment and touchable surfaces.

This directive and order shall be effective April 28, 2020 and will continue until further notification.

DocuSigned by:

Karen Sullivan

April 27, 2020 | 2:08:00 PM PDT

Karen Sullivan

HEALTH OFFICER FOR

THE CITY AND COUNTY OF BUTTE-SILVER BOW, MONTANA

ATTEST:

DocuSigned by:

Linda Sajor

Linda Sajor

Clerk & Recorder, Chief Deputy

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