

**ORDER OF HEALTH OFFICER REGARDING
COVID-19 SAFETY PLANS**

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

WHEREAS, as of April 29, 2020, the Johns Hopkins Map indicates that, due to COVID-19, there are 1,027,295 cases and 59,392 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 451 cases of COVID-19 in the State of Montana, 16 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 is based on up-to-date data and preparedness, mitigates risk of resurgence, and protects the most vulnerable;

WHEREAS, the governor's phased approach requires employers to develop and implement appropriate policies regarding social distancing and protective equipment, temperature checks and/or symptom screening, and collaboration with public health on testing, isolating and contact tracing; sanitation; use of disinfection of common and high-traffic areas; monitoring of the workforce for indicative symptoms, such as not allowing people with symptoms of COVID-19 to work; and collaborating with public health when implementing policies and procedures for workforce contact tracing following an employee COVID-positive test; and use and dis-infection of common and high-traffic areas;

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 businesses and other establishments and organizations in Butte-Silver Bow to produce a COVID-19 safety plan that addresses a specific way to increase the distance between patrons or groups of patrons to an acceptable distance; employee illness considerations; a plan for enhanced cleaning of surfaces; required signage, provided by the Butte-Silver Bow Health Department; and a signed commitment of compliance to the approved plan, including acknowledgement that failure to comply with the approved plan will result in closure by order of the health officer for an indeterminate time. Upon receipt of a proposed COVID-19 safety plan, the health officer/authorized personnel will review the plan for completeness and compliance with these guidelines/requirements. If a plan is fully approved, businesses and other establishments and organizations will be allowed to operate under the health officer's order. A template on the Butte-Silver Bow website and the State of Montana guidelines address all required elements, providing examples of compliant practices. Using that template, each establishment must indicate its acceptance by initialing each of the terms of this guidance and provide a written plan. In the event that a single owner or operator has multiple licensed sites, the same plan can be used by indicating all applicable license numbers. Once completed, plans must be submitted to the Butte-Silver Bow Health Department. When the plan is approved by the health officer/authorized personnel, the applicant will be notified in writing. An inspection of the establishment will be conducted, and signage provided stating submitted plans have been approved. Plans must be submitted by May 8, 2020.

This directive and order shall be effective April 29, 2020 and will continue until further notification.

DocuSigned by:

Karen Sullivan

Karen Sullivan

HEALTH OFFICER FOR

THE CITY AND COUNTY OF BUTTE-SILVER BOW, MONTANA

Date: April 29, 2020 | 2:48:39 PM PDT

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ATTEST:

DocuSigned by:

Linda Sajor

Linda Sajor

Clerk & Recorder, Chief Deputy

