

**ORDER OF HEALTH OFFICER REGARDING
MASS GATHERINGS AND LARGE EVENTS**

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

WHEREAS, as of Aug. 31, 2020, the Johns Hopkins Map indicates that, due to COVID-19, there are more than 6 million confirmed cases and an estimated 184,000 deaths in the United States;

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 more than 7,400 cases of COVID-19 in the State of Montana, 104 fatalities in the state, and 115 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 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 phased approach says individuals should avoid gathering in groups of more than 50 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 CDC says large events and mass gatherings can contribute to the spread of COVID-19 via persons who attend these events and introduce the virus to new communities; the CDC provides examples of large events and mass gatherings as follows - conferences, festivals, parades, concerts, and other types of assemblies;

WHEREAS, older adults and people with severe pre-existing health conditions are thought to be at increased risk;

WHEREAS, these mass gatherings and large events offer more opportunities for person-to-person contact and therefore pose greater risk of COVID-19 transmission;

WHEREAS, spread from person to person happens most frequently among close contacts (within 6 feet);

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 cancellation of community-wide mass gatherings and/or large events in Butte-Silver Bow whose attendance would result in greater than 50 people in circumstances that do not readily allow for appropriate physical distancing in the governor's Phase II. For events of more than 50 people, event planners will submit to the Health Department a plan detailing how the event can be carried out safely, with event planners providing assurance on safety. The exception to this order is school activities, including athletics. School activity officials, however, will closely coordinate with Health Department staff to ensure the safety of these activities.

This directive and order shall be effective Sept. 3, 2020 and will continue through Jan. 1, 2021, pending further notification.

DocuSigned by:

Karen Sullivan

Karen Sullivan

HEALTH OFFICER FOR

THE CITY AND COUNTY OF BUTTE-SILVER BOW, MONTANA

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City and County of Butte-Silver Bow

155 W. Granite St.

Room 208

Butte, MT 59701-9234

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