

**ORDER OF HEALTH OFFICER REGARDING
QUARANTINE AND ISOLATION MEASURES AS THEY RELATE TO
ESSENTIAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES**

Nov. 10, 2020

WHEREAS, the State of Montana and the City-County of Butte-Silver Bow are in a declared state of emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic;

WHEREAS, on May 19, 2020, the Montana governor issued a directive with requirements and guidance for Phase Two of the phased reopening of Montana, to begin on June 1, 2020 and the state remains in a partially opened phase;

WHEREAS, local jurisdictions can enact requirements that are more restrictive than state guidelines and the governor on several occasions has publicly urged more restrictive local action in view of the increasing rate of COVID-19 spread in numerous Montana counties;

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, cases of COVID-19 in Butte-Silver Bow began rising in late August 2020 and are continuing to ascend to an incidence rate of 84 cases per 100,000 population (new cases on a rolling seven-day average) on Nov. 9, 2020;

WHEREAS, an incidence rate greater than 25 cases per 100,000 population has been identified by the Harvard Global Health Institute as the highest "red zone" risk level beyond which a locality may tip into uncontrolled spread;

WHEREAS, Butte-Silver Bow has a positivity rate of 19.60 percent on Nov. 9, 2020;

WHEREAS, a positivity rate of greater than 10.00 percent has been identified by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services as the highest "red zone" risk level beyond which a locality may tip into uncontrolled spread;

WHEREAS, Butte-Silver Bow leaders are committed to keeping schools and campuses open for as much in-person learning time as can be safely provided during the long duration of this pandemic;

WHEREAS, Butte-Silver Bow is home to a regional hospital that Butte-Silver Bow residents and Southwestern Montanans rely on for COVID and non-COVID acute and critical care; WHEREAS, Butte-Silver Bow is home to a regional economic and service hub that Butte-Silver Bow residents and regional residents rely on for goods, services and their livelihoods;

WHEREAS, Butte-Silver Bow residents have largely shown cooperation and compliance with state and local COVID-19 restrictions, yet the rising case incidence threatens the ability of the local hospital to fully deliver care and businesses to remain open;

WHEREAS, epidemiological studies indicate that non-contagion strategies deployed to reduce the rate of transmission, such as limited group sizes, distancing and decreasing the activity level in a community, have achieved large, beneficial and measurable health outcomes, and that lockdowns in particular have had a large effect on reducing transmission;

WHEREAS, Butte-Silver Bow residents have largely shown good cooperation with COVID-19 mitigation measures, and epidemiological evidence suggests that structured environments, such as schools and structured events and business safety plans provide more protection against transmission than non-structured social environments and events, yet spread is threatening even these more-protected environments;

WHEREAS, the Butte-Silver Bow health officer, upon monitoring the local and state epidemiological trends of COVID transmission, researching additional mitigation measures and consulting with local experts and officials, has determined that additional measures are required to limit contact between people in order to protect the public and community from uncontrollable spread of COVID-19.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, pursuant to Title 50, Chapter 2, Part 4, and specifically Section 50-2-118 of the Montana Code Annotated, **the health officer is authorized to**

establish and maintain quarantine and isolation measures, as adopted by the Butte-Silver Bow Board of Health. Specifically:

- In order to protect Butte-Silver Bow citizens and county employees from COVID-19, Butte-Silver Bow's non-essential local government offices will be closed to the public starting at 8 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 11, 2020 and will resume normal business hours on Wednesday, Dec. 2, 2020, pending further review and notification. Butte-Silver Bow's offices will still be staffed with employees who will continue to offer their full range of services by phone and email from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Payment options are currently provided by phone, email or online.
- Butte-Silver Bow will have a payment and document drop box located outside of the Courthouse located at 155 W. Granite St. The Water Utility Division also has a drop box for payments located outside of its building at 124 W. Granite St.
- If citizens need to drop off documentation such as building plans and applications, citizens are asked to call the respective department they are working with, and department staff will meet citizens in front of the Courthouse building.
- Essential services, such as those performed by the Butte-Silver Bow Fire Department, Police Department, Health Department, and Public Works, will continue to be fully operational.
- Butte-Silver Bow's Council of Commissioners will continue to hold its weekly meetings remotely through web-based video conferencing and call-in functionality. Citizens are asked to participate by using the call-in number of submitting written comments.

DocuSigned by:

Karen Sullivan

D69DD9141ECC4A8

Karen Sullivan

**HEALTH OFFICER FOR
THE CITY AND COUNTY
OF BUTTE-SILVER BOW, MONTANA**

November 10, 2020 | 1:59:59 PM PST

Date

DocuSigned by:

Sally J. Holte

B088CE393355452...