

Billings City Administrator Weekly Report

April 3, 2020

COVID-19 Press Conference 2:00PM Today – Today there will be a press conference detailing developments the Unified Health Command (UHC) and Unified Incident Command (UIC) have taken regarding the COVID-19 pandemic. This will take place at **2:00 pm**. The best way to view this press conference is to watch via Facebook Live either through KULR8, the Billings Gazette, or KTVQ Facebook pages.

The overview for the press conference is below. Please note, things could shift slightly.

- Mayor Cole – open press conference
- John Felton – from public health situation to community situation
- KC Williams – what has been set up and what is in the works
- Denis Pitman – county commitment
- John Felton – JIC structure, close press conference and open to questions from the media

The press conference will help communicate the extraordinary efforts in our community to prepare, respond and recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. Mayor Cole and I are members of the Policy Branch of the UIC. As members, we attend daily briefings and planning meetings typically held at 9:00 am and 3:00 pm daily, 7 days per week. Billings is blessed with so many talented, compassionate citizens who are working around the clock to serve our great community.

COVID19 Information – Please see the attached information regarding COVID19 that has been sent out this week:

Census 2020
COVID FAQ 3-27-2020
COVID FAQ 3-28-2020
COVID 19 Workforce Information, Resources and Step by Step Guide
COVID 19 Disaster Relief Loans & Programs for Businesses
FEMA Daily Ops Briefing 3-28-2020
Governor Correctional Facilities Directive
Governor Directive Drivers Licenses Renewals
Governor Travel Directive
Increased Commercial Carrier Capacity
LE Stay at Home Press Release
MET Media Release Fare Free
Playground and Courts Ban
Press Release – Hourly Parking in Public Garages
Press Release – Utility Payment & Services
Stay At Home Directive
Suspension of Open Burning
Updated – City Operations Modifications 3-30-2020
Updated – Municipal Court Operations Modifications 3-30-2020

Budget Meetings – The following departments presented their budgets this week: Public Works, Parks, Recreation and Public Lands, Aviation and Transit and Legal. We are working diligently to stay on schedule with budget presentations to the Council throughout May and early June. The team is doing extraordinary work balancing the anticipated economic impacts of COVID19 with the need to invest in our City. We want the world to understand that they are “Better off in Billings”.

Tune in at 2:00 and have a wonderful safe weekend with your loved ones!

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF MONTANA

STEVE BULLOCK
GOVERNOR



MIKE COONEY
LT. GOVERNOR

April 2, 2020

The Honorable Wilbur Ross
Secretary of Commerce
United States Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretary Ross,

We are all experiencing the diverse impacts that COVID-19 is having on our country. Here in Montana, my administration is working first to protect the health and safety of our state's 1.06 million residents. That work includes protecting against the spread of the illness. In Montana, we've closed public schools and college campuses, and are limiting public gatherings and directing Montanans to stay home to slow the spread of COVID-19. We are also doing all we can to offset the short and long-term impacts this will have on our economy, our communities, our families and the 2020 Census.

We support the decision by the U.S. Census Bureau to suspend all field operations and cancel events through the majority of April. However, we also recognize this suspension runs counter to the Census Bureau's efforts to obtain a complete count. The suspension impacts many Bureau operations including the update/leave delivery of forms to household doors, the count of those experiencing homelessness, group quarters counts including colleges and nursing homes, and door-to-door non-response follow up scheduled to begin in May.

The effects of social distancing also impact the efforts by complete count committees, non-profits, and partner organizations working to educate residents on the importance of responding to the 2020 Census. It is likely these efforts will continue to be hampered for some time because of the public health emergency and the focus by residents on immediate health and financial concerns, rather than filling out the 2020 Census form.

Montana's frontier nature, our significant share of hard-to-count residents, seven tribal reservations, and our low population density over a large land area present significant challenges to achieving an accurate count. Additionally, significant areas of the state have limited broadband access and many Montana households do not receive mail delivery to their home. The lack of social contact due to COVID-19 and the suspension of the update/leave delivery of forms to the door will impact the completeness and accuracy of the state's count.

Secretary Ross

April 2, 2020

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Many planned efforts to achieve high self-response rates from hard-to-count populations and rural geographic areas are no longer viable due to COVID-19 response measures, including those mandated by the U.S. Census Bureau. More time is needed for effective outreach.

For these reasons, I urge the U.S. Census Bureau to extend the deadline for Census submission beyond August 14, 2020 to at least September 30, 2020 ensure every Montanan – and all residents across the country – are accurately counted.

In Montana, we must ensure that everyone is counted in the 2020 Census. Our schools, hospitals, highways, communities and families depend on it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Steve Bullock", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

STEVE BULLOCK
Governor

Coronavirus FAQs

Updated March 27 at 5:30pm

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Information on Inquiries

- Link to Governor's [Directive](#)
- State Business Inquiry Hotline: **1-800-755-6672**
- State General COVID-19 Hotline: **1-888-333-0461**
- Website, details and maps: COVID19INFO@MT.GOV
- Follow Montana Dept. of Disaster & Emergency Services on social media:
 - [Facebook: Montana DES](#)
 - [Instagram: Montanades406](#)
 - [Twitter: Montana DES](#)
 - Hashtags: #COVID19MT #FlattenTheCurve #slowthespread #HomeTownHeroes #PublicHealthHeroes #TeamMontana #MTstrong #TogetherMT

General Questions on Directive

Before reviewing this document, please first read the actual order. Most questions you can most likely be answered by reading the entire order.

What is the intent of the Directive?

- The intent of this Directive is to ensure that the maximum number of people self-isolate in their places of residence to the maximum extent feasible, while enabling essential services to continue, to slow the spread of COVID-19 to the greatest extent possible.

- These measures are designed to end the epidemic as early as possible, and to protect the well-being of Montanans by returning to the course of business and everyday life as soon as is practicable and safe.
- When people need to leave their places of residence, whether to perform essential activities, or to otherwise facilitate authorized activities necessary for continuity of social and commercial life, they should at all times and as much as reasonably possible comply with social distancing requirements. (*see below for requirements*)

What's the difference between stay at home and shelter in place orders?

- They are essentially used interchangeably; both directives accomplish the same thing. Every person who stays at home and avoids large crowds, the better our chances to fight this virus and protect our frontline health care workers and emergency responders.

What exactly does this order require?

- This order states that starting at midnight 12:01 am March 28, Montanans should stay home. There are exceptions for essential travel and for essential businesses.
- The order lasts through April 10, 2020 but could be extended if warranted.
- Non-essential social and recreational gatherings of individuals outside of a home or place of residence are prohibited immediately, regardless of size, if a distance of at least six feet between individuals cannot be maintained.
- All persons may leave their homes or place of residence only for essential activities or to operate essential businesses and operations.

Do you have the authority to make a stay at home directive?

- Yes. Montana law specifically authorizes these kinds of measures in response to an outbreak of communicable disease. They're very clearly spelled out in each of our Executive Directives and come both from the authority to respond to emergencies and the public health authority of the state.
- This Directive, along with any prior Directive that implements and references the public health authorities of the Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) provided in Title 50, constitutes a "public health . . . order[]" within the meaning of § 50-1-103(2), MCA, and is enforceable by the Attorney General, DPHHS, a county attorney, or other local authorities under the direction of a county attorney. Local public health agencies are directed to assist in the administration of this Directive, consistent with § 50-1-202(2)(a), MCA.
- This also isn't the first time that self-isolation measures have saved lives in Montana. We saw similar orders over 100 years ago during the Spanish Influenza pandemic.

How will this Directive be enforced?

- First and foremost, people don't want to get sick and don't want to get others sick. Montanans understand that. The Governor is confident that most Montanans will take this order seriously and understand their role in cutting off the chain of transmission to save lives and minimize long term impacts to our economy. This is a public health order that can be legally enforced at local or state levels.

- If you believe that someone is violating the directive, report it to your local county health department, or county attorney.

What are the Social Distancing Requirements for Essential Businesses and Operations?

- Essential businesses and operations and those businesses engaged in minimum basic operations must take proactive measures to ensure compliance with social distancing requirements, including where possible:
 - Designate six-foot distances. Designating with signage, tape, or by other means six-foot spacing for employees and customers in line to maintain appropriate distance;
 - Hand sanitizer and sanitizing products. Having hand sanitizer and sanitizing products readily available for employees and customers;
 - Separate operating hours for vulnerable populations. Implementing separate operating hours for elderly and vulnerable customers; and
 - Online and remote access. Posting online whether a facility is open and how best to reach the facility and continue services by phone or remotely.

What is meant by ‘Minimum Basic Operations’ for essential businesses and operations?

- For the purposes of this Directive, Minimum Basic Operations include the following, provided that employees comply with Social Distancing Requirements, to the extent possible, while carrying out such operations:
 - The minimum necessary activities to maintain the value of the business’s inventory, preserve the condition of the business’s physical plant and equipment, ensure security, process payroll and employee benefits, or for related functions.
 - The minimum necessary activities to facilitate employees of the business being able to continue to work remotely from their residences.

Travel and Road Closures

Is travel allowed? What about for out of state visitors?

- All travel should be limited to essential travel and travel for essential activities. People riding on public transit must comply with social distancing to the greatest extent feasible. When individuals need to leave their homes or residences, they should maintain social distancing of at least six feet from any person who is not a member of their immediate household, to the greatest extent possible.
- Out of state visitors are not restricted at this time, though everyone in Montana is subject to this order and required to minimize risk of exposure and transmission by limiting travel and activities outside of their homes.

Are road closures in place anywhere in Montana?

- Road closures (associated with the stay-at-home Directive) are not in effect at this time
- See information on road closures at: <https://www.mdt.mt.gov/travinfo/alerts.shtml>

What is considered ‘Essential Travel?’

- Essential Travel includes travel for any of the following purposes:
 - Any travel related to the provision of or access to Essential Activities, Essential Businesses and Operations, or Minimum Basic Operations.
 - Travel to care for elderly, minors, dependents, persons with disabilities, or other vulnerable persons.
 - Travel to or from educational institutions for purposes of receiving materials for distance learning, for receiving meals, and any other related services.
 - Travel to return to a place of residence from outside the jurisdiction.
 - Travel required by law enforcement or court order, including to transport children pursuant to a custody agreement.
 - Travel required for non-residents to return to their place of residence outside the State. Individuals are strongly encouraged to verify that their transportation out of the State remains available and functional prior to commencing such travel.

Am I Considered an Essential Business/Operation?

How was the list of essential businesses and operations created?

- On March 19, 2020, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), issued a [*Memorandum on Identification of Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers During COVID-19 Response*](#). This provided the basis for the list of essential businesses and operations, in addition to guidance from states with similar Directives/Orders in place.

How do businesses know if they're essential? What does a business do if they are ordered to close but think they are essential?

- There is a thorough list provided in the [Directive](#). Businesses should read this first as it clearly covers all essential businesses. If businesses do not fall into any of the categories listed and believe they are essential, or are unsure if they fall into the categories listed, they can contact: **1-800-755-6672** or COVID19INFO@MT.GOV.

I am a nurse/pharmacist/dentist/vet – am I essential staff/business?

- Yes, individuals may leave their residence to work for or obtain services through Health Care and Public Health Operations. This includes, but is not limited to:
 - hospitals; clinics; dental offices; pharmacies; public health entities (and those that compile, model, analyze and communicate public health information); pharmaceutical, pharmacy, medical device and equipment, and biotechnology companies (including operations, research and development, manufacture, and supply chain); organizations collecting blood, platelets, plasma, and other necessary materials; licensed medical cannabis dispensaries and licensed cannabis cultivation centers; reproductive health care providers; eye care centers, including those that sell glasses and contact lenses; home Health Care services providers; mental health and substance use providers; other Health Care facilities and suppliers and providers of any related and/or ancillary Health Care services; and entities that transport and dispose of medical materials and remains.

- Also includes manufacturers, technicians, logistics, and warehouse operators and distributors of medical equipment, personal protective equipment (PPE), medical gases, pharmaceuticals, blood and blood products, vaccines, testing materials, laboratory supplies, cleaning, sanitizing, disinfecting or sterilization supplies, and tissue and paper towel products.
- Veterinary care and all Health Care services provided to animals are considered essential.

I own/work at a gym/salon/barber shop/tattoo parlor/pet groomer – am I essential staff/business?

- No, these are not considered essential businesses/operations as it is too difficult to maintain social distancing requirements.

I work at a shelter/long-term care facility/treatment center/social services OR my friend/family requires these services – can I leave to work/seek treatment/take someone for treatment?

- Yes, these are all considered ‘Human Services Operations.’ Individuals may leave their residence to work for or obtain services at any Human Services Operations, including any provider funded by DPHHS, or Medicaid, that is providing services to the public and including state-operated, institutional, or community-based settings providing human services to the public.
- Human Services Operations includes, but is not limited to: long-term care facilities; residential settings and shelters for adults, seniors, children, and/or people with developmental disabilities, intellectual disabilities, substance use disorders, and/or mental illness; transitional facilities; home-based settings to provide services to individuals with physical, intellectual, and/or developmental disabilities, seniors, adults, and children; field offices that provide and help to determine eligibility for basic needs including food, cash assistance, medical coverage, child care, vocational services, rehabilitation services; developmental centers; adoption agencies; businesses that provide food, shelter, and social services, and other necessities of life for economically disadvantaged individuals, individuals with physical, intellectual, and/or developmental disabilities, or otherwise needy individuals.

I work in the construction industry. Am I considered an essential business?

- Yes, you are considered to provide ‘essential infrastructure.’ Individuals may leave their residence to provide any services or perform any work necessary to offer, provision, operate, maintain and repair essential infrastructure. The term ‘construction,’ for this purpose, includes:
 - construction required in response to this public health emergency, hospital construction, construction of long-term care facilities, public works construction, and housing construction); building management and maintenance; airport operations; aircraft fueling services; operation and maintenance of utilities, including water, sewer, and gas; electrical (including power generation, distribution, and production of raw materials); distribution centers; oil and biofuel refining; roads, highways, railroads, and public transportation; cybersecurity

operations; flood control; operation of dams, locks, ditches, canals, diversions, and levies; solid waste and recycling collection and removal; and internet, video, and telecommunications systems (including the provision of essential global, national, and local infrastructure for computing services, business infrastructure, communications, and web-based services).

- Essential Infrastructure shall be construed broadly to avoid any impacts to essential infrastructure, broadly defined.

Will golf courses be able to stay open?

- The Governor's Directive allows for the maintenance activities on golf courses in Montana.
- As far as the use of the facilities, General Managers (of golf courses) should adhere to the intent of the Directive and eliminate all personal interaction between the golfing public and course employees.
 - For example, if a General Manager can overcome the direct personal interaction of the pro shop engagements of scheduling tee times and fee exchanges through online or phone transaction then it may be possible to keep the course open.
 - Golf cart rental, locker rooms, restaurant service, and pro shop merchandise sales should be suspended.
 - Additionally, golfers and course employees should always follow the social distancing guidelines highlighted in the Directive.

I am/own a landscaping business. Is this considered an essential business?

- Yes, business building management and maintenance is considered an essential operation.
- Also, this service is allowed as part of the minimum necessary activities to maintain the value of the business's inventory, preserve the condition of the business's physical plant and equipment, ensure security, process payroll and employee benefits, or for related functions.

I am a farmer/rancher. Am I considered an essential business? *(Answers vary below depending on the type of operation)*

- Yes, food, beverage and agriculture are considered essential, including cultivation, marketing, production, and wholesale or retail distribution of animals and goods for consumption.
- Individuals may leave their residence to provide any services or perform any work necessary to offer, provision, operate, maintain and repair essential infrastructure - which includes food production, distribution, storage and sale (e.g. those that sell livestock, crops, etc.).
- Businesses that provide equipment, transportation, seed, feed, fertilizer, or other products or services critical to food and livestock production may remain open.

I work/own an auto or bike shop. Will I be able to remain open?

- Yes, businesses needed for transportation are considered essential. This includes auto supply, auto repair, and related facilities and bicycle shops and related facilities.

I am a tradesman/woman (plumber, electrician, exterminator, cleaner/janitor, security). Am I considered essential?

- Yes, you are considered to be a ‘critical trade.’
- Building and Construction Tradesmen and Tradeswomen, and other trades including but not limited to plumbers, electricians, exterminators, cleaning and janitorial staff for commercial and governmental properties, security staff, operating engineers, HVAC, painting, moving and relocation services, and other service providers who provide services that are necessary to maintaining the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of residences, essential activities, and essential businesses/operations.

I work at a post office/shipping/delivery service. Am I considered essential?

- Yes, you are considered to be a ‘critical trade.’ This includes post offices and other businesses that provide shipping and delivery services, and businesses that ship or deliver groceries, food, alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages, goods or services to end users or through commercial channels.

Are airlines, buses, taxis and ride-shares able to provide services still?

- Yes, airlines, taxis, transportation network providers (such as Uber and Lyft), vehicle rental services, paratransit, and other private, public, and commercial transportation and logistics providers necessary for essential activities and other purposes authorized in the Directive are allowed to operate.

I work in the mining/energy/petroleum/forest products industry. Am I considered an essential business?

- Yes, the following is allowed to operate: manufacturing companies, distributors, and supply chain companies producing and supplying essential products and services in and for industries such as pharmaceutical, technology, biotechnology, Health Care, chemicals and sanitization, waste pickup and disposal, agriculture, food and beverage, transportation, energy, steel and steel products, petroleum and fuel, forest products, mining, construction, national defense, communications, as well as products used by other Essential Businesses and Operations.

I am a first responder/EMT/dispatcher/court personnel/law enforcement/corrections/child protection/fire/military/local Tribal or state government. Am I considered an essential business?

- Yes, you are considered to provide an essential Governmental Function.
- All first responders, emergency management personnel, emergency dispatchers, court personnel, law enforcement and corrections personnel, hazardous materials responders, child protection and child welfare personnel, fire protection personnel, wildland fire fighters, housing and shelter personnel, military, government employees involved in training the above functions, and other government employees are categorically exempt from this Directive.
- State government employees are categorically exempt from this Directive.

- Local governments are permitted to designate which functions and employees are essential and exempt for the purposes of this Directive, apart from those positions and functions named above.
- Nothing in this Directive shall be interpreted or applied in a way that interferes with or supersedes tribal sovereignty.

I operate a retail establishment. Can I continue serving customers through a curbside pickup or delivery sales model?

- No, retail businesses that do not fall into another exempted category are not permitted to continue operation, other than to fulfill online orders that will be shipped to customers. In that case, you must have no greater than 10 employees in your establishment and you must maintain at least 6 feet of separation between each employee, as well as follow sanitation guidelines.

Can I Leave My House? What Businesses Will Remain Open

I need groceries/supplies/subscriptions. Can I leave my house to get them?

Individuals may leave their home or residence only to perform essential activities. Essential activities still require maintaining a distance of six feet from others at all times. Relating to your question, essential activities include leaving your residence for:

- ‘Necessary supplies and services’. To obtain necessary services or supplies for themselves and their family or household members, or to deliver those services or supplies to others, such as, by way of example only and without limitation, groceries and food, household consumer products, supplies they need to work from home, and products necessary to maintain the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of residences.

I need exercise. Can I leave my house to recreate/fish/camp/exercise?

Individuals may leave their home or residence only to perform essential activities. Essential activities still require maintaining a distance of six feet from others at all times. Relating to your question, essential activities include leaving your residence for:

- Yes, you can engage in outdoor activity, provided that individuals comply with social distancing (6’ from others), such as, by way of example and without limitation, walking, hiking, running, or biking. Individuals may go to public parks and open outdoor recreation areas, including public lands in Montana provided they remain open to recreation.
- Montanans are discouraged from outdoor recreation activities that pose enhanced risks of injury or could otherwise stress the ability of local first responders to address the COVID-19 emergency (*e.g.*, backcountry skiing in a manner inconsistent with avalanche recommendations or in closed terrain).

Additional considerations (related to recreation/fishing and boating): Guidelines for Services at State Parks, Fishing Access Sites and Wildlife Management Areas

- At this time, Montana State Parks, Fishing Access Sites and Wildlife Management Areas remain open to day-use. Social distancing applies, and respect for the resources is critical to keeping public lands in Montana open. Because travel exacerbates the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, the public should use public lands in their communities, and non-local travel to sites is strongly discouraged.
- Surrounding states have closed their sites to overnight use. Our federal partners are also closing developed sites and campgrounds. Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks will close its campgrounds and lands to overnight use to be consistent with our federal partners and sister states, and to prevent those from other states who are travelling in search of a state that is open for camping.
- Until further notice:
 - Sites remain open for day use.
 - Visitor Centers and Park Offices remain closed to the public.
 - No overnight use permitted.
 - Playgrounds will close on Saturday, March 28, 2020.
 - Group use areas will close on Saturday, March 28, 2020.
 - **No new special use permits will be issued**
 - Public programs and special events remain cancelled.
- In addition to this reduction in service, employees will also evaluate ongoing maintenance of restroom facilities. Reducing the number of latrine facilities must still provide for the basic service of latrine availability. Closed latrines will be signed as closed and open latrines will be signed to make the public aware that the frequency of cleaning may be limited. Availability of supplies and appropriate PPE will be considered as the priority in whether ongoing latrine maintenance is possible. We will not ask employees to do this work without proper protective equipment.
- State parks: Overnight camping and group use sites will be closed until further notice.
- Additionally, the public can anticipate few bathroom facilities at state park/fishing access sites as we are limited on staff and supplies to keep them cleaned.
- Most parks and access sites open at this time. The closure of state parks and public access sites are being evaluated on a case-by-case basis (re: public safety concerns, employee safety). Information to be posted on FWP Parks [website](#) and sent out in press release/media advisory.
- Fishing and hunting licenses must be purchased online (offices closed). For more information, see [FWP website](#).
- Watercraft inspection stations are mandatory in Montana and will continue to operate at this time. For more information: [CleanDrainDry.MT.GOV](#)
- Federally managed parks and public lands (e.g. USFS, BLM, BOR) also closing some public access/lands due to lack of staffing and supplies (e.g. bathrooms, etc.). Please check in with those agencies for specific closures.

My kid/wife/husband/friend/pet needs a prescription/medical attention/emergency dental procedure. Can I/we/they leave the house to get them?

- Yes, for ‘health and safety’ and purposes, this is considered an essential activity. To engage in activities or perform tasks essential to their health and safety, or to the health and safety of their family or household members (including, but not limited to, pets), such as, by way of example only and without limitation, seeking emergency services, obtaining medical supplies or medication, or visiting a health care professional.
- Yes, to ‘take care of others.’ To care for a family member, friend, or pet in another household, and to transport family members, friends, or pets as allowed by this Directive.

Will grocery stores/gas stations/pharmacies remain open?

- Yes, stores that sell groceries and medicine will remain open. This includes but is not limited to: grocery stores, pharmacies, farm and produce stands, supermarkets, convenience stores, and other establishments engaged in the retail sale of groceries, canned food, dry goods, frozen foods, fresh fruits and vegetables, pet supplies, fresh meats, fish, and poultry, alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages, and any other household consumer products (such as cleaning and personal care products).
 - This also includes stores that sell non-grocery products that are necessary to maintain the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of residences and Essential Businesses and Operations.
- Licensed medical cannabis dispensaries and licensed cannabis cultivation centers may remain open.

Can I still get pet food/supplies?

- Yes, businesses that provide food, shelter, and other necessities of life for animals, including veterinary and animal health services, animal shelters, rescues, kennels, and adoption facilities may remain open.

Will the hardware store remain open?

- Yes, hardware stores and businesses that sell electrical, plumbing, and heating material are considered essential.

Will my bank/real estate office/accountant remain open?

- Yes, businesses that provide financial and real estate services are considered essential.
- This includes: banks, consumer lenders, including but not limited, to pawnbrokers, accountants, consumer installment lenders and sales finance lenders, credit unions, appraisers, realtors or others providing real estate services, title companies, financial markets, trading and futures exchanges, affiliates of financial institutions, entities that issue bonds, related financial institutions, and institutions selling financial products.
- Professional services, such as legal services, accounting services, insurance services, information technology services, real estate services (including appraisal and title services) are also included in essential services.

Will the laundromat remain open?

- Yes, laundromats, dry cleaners, industrial laundry services, and laundry service providers may remain open.

Will restaurants remain open?

- Restaurants may remain open, but only for consumption off-premises.
- Restaurants and other facilities that prepare and serve food, but only for consumption off-premises, through such means as in-house delivery, third-party delivery, drive-through, curbside pick-up, and carry-out.

Can schools still provide food services (for consumption off-site)?

- Schools and other entities that typically provide food services to students or members of the public may continue to do so under the Directive on the condition that the food is provided to students or members of the public on a pick-up and takeaway basis only.
- Schools and other entities that provide food services under this exemption shall not permit the food to be eaten at the site where it is provided, or at any other gathering site due to the virus's propensity to physically impact surfaces and personal property.

Will hotels remain open?

- Yes, hotels and motels, to the extent used for lodging and delivery or carry-out food services will be able to stay open.

Will funeral services be available during this time?

- Yes, funeral, mortuary, cremation, burial, cemetery, and related services will still be able to operate. **Need direction on what actual funerals can happen and how many are able to attend**

Specific Populations (Daycares, Homelessness and Social Services)

Are homeless people covered by this order? Are social services still available?

- Individuals experiencing homelessness are exempt from this Directive, but are strongly urged to obtain shelter, and governmental and other entities are strongly urged to make such shelter available as soon as possible and to the maximum extent practicable and to use in their operation COVID-19 risk mitigation practices recommended by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS).
- Organizations that provide charitable and social services are considered 'essential.' Businesses and religious and secular nonprofit organizations, including food banks, when providing food, shelter, and social services, and other necessities of life for economically disadvantaged or otherwise needy individuals, individuals who need assistance as a result of this emergency, and people with disabilities.
- In addition, residential facilities and shelters for adults, seniors, children, and/or people with developmental disabilities, intellectual disabilities, substance use disorders, and/or mental illness are considered essential.
- Reach out to shelters, food banks and other social services in your local community for specific available resources and operations updates.

Does this order close daycares? (SUGGESTED LANGUAGE)

- Daycare facilities serving the caregivers of the following critical response personnel may remain open:
 - Medical staff, first responders, emergency management personnel, emergency dispatchers, court personnel, law enforcement and corrections personnel, hazardous materials responders, child protection and child welfare personnel, fire protection personnel, wildland fire fighters, housing and shelter personnel, military, and government employees involved in training the above functions.

Why did you decide to close barber shops and salons? Why not do it earlier?

- Many of these businesses cannot operate while adhering to social distancing guidelines.
- As COVID-19 cases continue to grow, it is necessary to close all non-essential businesses and operations. I know many workers in the barber and cosmetology industry are self-employed and I'm pleased that the federal stimulus package allows self-employed citizens to access UI benefits during this challenging time.

Federal Assistance/Political Questions

What do you think of the federal stimulus package?

I'm pleased that the House and Senate listened the nation's governors – Democrat and Republican – in our request for the critical support our hospitals, frontline medical professionals, workers, small businesses, and local and tribal governments need to fight this pandemic. While I don't support everything in this bill, it's a good first step for people who are hurting – and I hope that it will provide people across our country with much-needed relief. As we face unprecedented challenges, I'll keep working with Congress and the White House to do what's best for our safety and our economy.

What do you think of Donald Trump's comments that we will be open by Easter?

As the federal government considers lifting social distancing measures against the recommendations of public health experts and in conflict with what other countries have done to make progress in combatting COVID-19, it would be irresponsible for me to follow suit and downplay the situation.

I share the President's goal of getting through this crisis, but the doctors and public health experts I'm talking to believe it will take longer. I want to give the cure time to work before we risk making the problem even worse.

Unemployment and Assistance

*These are Agency-Approved key messages/talking points

- The COVID-19 emergency is now impacting the work and personal lives of Montanans throughout our state. The Montana Department of Labor & Industry is closely following the changing dynamics and policies at the state and federal level.

- For employees who have been affected by COVID-19, you may be eligible for Unemployment Insurance. Through our UI Emergency Rule, eligibility for UI has expanded.
- The CARES Act that is going through Congress right now will also likely affect eligibility, benefit amount, and the duration of benefits.
- To apply for Unemployment Insurance, please visit MontanaWorks.gov.
- As you've seen, claims are at unprecedented levels, and the site is getting a lot of traffic. We have implemented changes and applied resources to keep the site functioning. We appreciate your patience.
- Employers who are reducing hours or laying off staff need to let those employees know that they may be eligible for UI. An unpaid temporary closure of an employer's operations functions as a lay-off from work. Please encourage them to file at MontanaWorks.gov.
- If they haven't already, employers should also sign up for SIDES by visiting uieservices.mt.gov or calling (406) 444-3834. By participating in SIDES, the Department of Labor & Industry can communicate with employers electronically, which speeds up the process of remitting benefits to your employees.
- Under the emergency rules that went into effect on March 17, 2020, employers accounts will not be charged due to individual COVID-19 UI claims.
- Montana employers and employees that have been impacted by COVID-19 are encouraged to visit the <http://dli.mt.gov/employer-covid-19> for more workplace resources and answers to frequently asked questions.
- Unemployment compensation is a federal- state partnership. During this emergency, federal law governs, while state programs deliver the benefits. To do that, the states must await final passage and guidance, then operationalize those changes via technology, changed business processes, and shifting staff resources to support delivery of critical benefits to Montanans. We will be updating this information daily at: <http://dli.mt.gov/employer-covid-19>
- The proposed Stimulus Package has three components that will be administered by the Montana Department of Labor & Industry:
 - Pandemic Unemployment Assistance – this is a benefit designed for self-employed, independent contractors, those people who are generally not otherwise covered by UI, and who are unable to work due to the COVID emergency.
 - How to prepare to apply for benefits: Gather proof of income documents together – recent tax return, 1099s, whatever documents show past earnings.
 - Be patient – The Department of Labor & Industry will be working to program systems to accept PUA claims.
 - This is new federal/state program and federal guidance is pending.
 - Emergency Increase in Unemployment Benefits – this is an extra \$600 payment per week for up for four months. Information will be forthcoming.
 - Extended Benefits for those who have exhausted their claim for an additional 13 weeks. Information will be forthcoming.

Coronavirus FAQs

Updated March 28 at 11:30am

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Information on Inquiries

- Link to Governor's [Directive](#)
- State Business Inquiry Hotline: **1-800-755-6672**
- State General COVID-19 Hotline: **1-888-333-0461**
- Website, details and maps: COVID19INFO@MT.GOV
- Follow Montana Dept. of Disaster & Emergency Services on social media:
 - [Facebook: Montana DES](#)
 - [Instagram: Montanades406](#)
 - [Twitter: Montana DES](#)
 - Hashtags: #COVID19MT #FlattenTheCurve #slowthespread #HomeTownHeroes #PublicHealthHeroes #TeamMontana #MTstrong #TogetherMT

General Questions on Directive

Before reviewing this document, please first read the actual order. Most questions can most likely be answered by reading the entire order.

What is the intent of the Directive?

- The intent of this Directive is to ensure that the maximum number of people self-isolate in their places of residence to the maximum extent feasible, while enabling essential services to continue, to slow the spread of COVID-19 to the greatest extent possible.

- These measures are designed to end the epidemic as early as possible, and to protect the well-being of Montanans by returning to the course of business and everyday life as soon as is practicable and safe.
- When people need to leave their places of residence, whether to perform essential activities, or to otherwise facilitate authorized activities necessary for continuity of social and commercial life, they should at all times and as much as reasonably possible comply with social distancing requirements. *(see below for requirements)*

What's the difference between stay at home and shelter in place orders?

- They are essentially used interchangeably; both directives accomplish the same thing. Every person who stays at home and avoids large crowds, the better our chances to fight this virus and protect our frontline health care workers and emergency responders.

What exactly does this order require?

- This order states that starting at midnight 12:01 am March 28, Montanans should stay home. There are exceptions for essential travel and for essential businesses.
- The order lasts through April 10, 2020 but could be extended if warranted.
- Non-essential social and recreational gatherings of individuals outside of a home or place of residence are prohibited immediately, regardless of size, if a distance of at least six feet between individuals cannot be maintained.
- All persons may leave their homes or place of residence only for essential activities or to operate essential businesses and operations.

Do you have the authority to make a stay at home directive?

- Yes. Montana law specifically authorizes these kinds of measures in response to an outbreak of communicable disease. They're very clearly spelled out in each of our Executive Directives and come both from the authority to respond to emergencies and the public health authority of the state.
- This Directive, along with any prior Directive that implements and references the public health authorities of the Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) provided in Title 50, constitutes a "public health . . . order[]" within the meaning of § 50-1-103(2), MCA, and is enforceable by the Attorney General, DPHHS, a county attorney, or other local authorities under the direction of a county attorney. Local public health agencies are directed to assist in the administration of this Directive, consistent with § 50-1-202(2)(a), MCA.
- This also isn't the first time that self-isolation measures have saved lives in Montana. We saw similar orders over 100 years ago during the Spanish Influenza pandemic.

How will this Directive be enforced?

- First and foremost, people don't want to get sick and don't want to get others sick. Montanans understand that. The Governor is confident that most Montanans will take this order seriously and understand their role in cutting off the chain of transmission to save lives and minimize long term impacts to our economy. This is a public health order that can be legally enforced at local or state levels.

- If you believe that someone is violating the directive, report it to your local county health department, or county attorney.

What are the Social Distancing Requirements for Essential Businesses and Operations?

- Essential businesses and operations and those businesses engaged in minimum basic operations must take proactive measures to ensure compliance with social distancing requirements, including where possible:
 - Designate six-foot distances. Designating with signage, tape, or by other means six-foot spacing for employees and customers in line to maintain appropriate distance;
 - Hand sanitizer and sanitizing products. Having hand sanitizer and sanitizing products readily available for employees and customers;
 - Separate operating hours for vulnerable populations. Implementing separate operating hours for elderly and vulnerable customers; and
 - Online and remote access. Posting online whether a facility is open and how best to reach the facility and continue services by phone or remotely.

What is meant by ‘Minimum Basic Operations’ for essential businesses and operations?

- For the purposes of this Directive, Minimum Basic Operations include the following, provided that employees comply with Social Distancing Requirements, to the extent possible, while carrying out such operations:
 - The minimum necessary activities to maintain the value of the business’s inventory, preserve the condition of the business’s physical plant and equipment, ensure security, process payroll and employee benefits, or for related functions.
 - The minimum necessary activities to facilitate employees of the business being able to continue to work remotely from their residences.

Travel and Road Closures

Is travel allowed? What about for out of state visitors?

- All travel should be limited to essential travel and travel for essential activities. People riding on public transit must comply with social distancing to the greatest extent feasible. When individuals need to leave their homes or residences, they should maintain social distancing of at least six feet from any person who is not a member of their immediate household, to the greatest extent possible.
- Out of state visitors are not restricted at this time, though everyone in Montana is subject to this order and required to minimize risk of exposure and transmission by limiting travel and activities outside of their homes.

Are road closures in place anywhere in Montana?

- Road closures (associated with the stay-at-home Directive) are not in effect at this time
- See information on road closures at: <https://www.mdt.mt.gov/travinfo/alerts.shtml>

What is considered ‘Essential Travel?’

- Essential Travel includes travel for any of the following purposes:
 - Any travel related to the provision of or access to Essential Activities, Essential Businesses and Operations, or Minimum Basic Operations.
 - Travel to care for elderly, minors, dependents, persons with disabilities, or other vulnerable persons.
 - Travel to or from educational institutions for purposes of receiving materials for distance learning, for receiving meals, and any other related services.
 - Travel to return to a place of residence from outside the jurisdiction.
 - Travel required by law enforcement or court order, including to transport children pursuant to a custody agreement.
 - Travel required for non-residents to return to their place of residence outside the State. Individuals are strongly encouraged to verify that their transportation out of the State remains available and functional prior to commencing such travel.

Am I Considered an Essential Business/Operation?

How was the list of essential businesses and operations created?

- On March 19, 2020, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), issued a [*Memorandum on Identification of Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers During COVID-19 Response*](#). This provided the basis for the list of essential businesses and operations, in addition to guidance from states with similar Directives/Orders in place.

How do businesses know if they’re essential? What does a business do if they are ordered to close but think they are essential?

- There is a thorough list provided in the [Directive](#). Businesses should read this first as it clearly covers all essential businesses. If businesses do not fall into any of the categories listed and believe they are essential, or are unsure if they fall into the categories listed, they can contact: **1-800-755-6672** or COVID19INFO@MT.GOV.

I am a nurse/pharmacist/dentist/vet – am I essential staff/business?

- Yes, individuals may leave their residence to work for or obtain services through Health Care and Public Health Operations. This includes, but is not limited to:
 - hospitals; clinics; dental offices; pharmacies; public health entities (and those that compile, model, analyze and communicate public health information); pharmaceutical, pharmacy, medical device and equipment, and biotechnology companies (including operations, research and development, manufacture, and supply chain); organizations collecting blood, platelets, plasma, and other necessary materials; licensed medical cannabis dispensaries and licensed cannabis cultivation centers; reproductive health care providers; eye care centers, including those that sell glasses and contact lenses; home Health Care services providers; mental health and substance use providers; other Health Care facilities and suppliers and providers of any related and/or ancillary Health Care services; and entities that transport and dispose of medical materials and remains.

- Also includes manufacturers, technicians, logistics, and warehouse operators and distributors of medical equipment, personal protective equipment (PPE), medical gases, pharmaceuticals, blood and blood products, vaccines, testing materials, laboratory supplies, cleaning, sanitizing, disinfecting or sterilization supplies, and tissue and paper towel products.
- Veterinary care and all Health Care services provided to animals are considered essential.

I own/work at a gym/salon/barber shop/tattoo parlor/pet groomer – am I essential staff/business?

- No, these are not considered essential businesses/operations as it is too difficult to maintain social distancing requirements.

I work at a shelter/long-term care facility/treatment center/social services OR my friend/family requires these services – can I leave to work/seek treatment/take someone for treatment?

- Yes, these are all considered ‘Human Services Operations.’ Individuals may leave their residence to work for or obtain services at any Human Services Operations, including any provider funded by DPHHS, or Medicaid, that is providing services to the public and including state-operated, institutional, or community-based settings providing human services to the public.
- Human Services Operations includes, but is not limited to: long-term care facilities; residential settings and shelters for adults, seniors, children, and/or people with developmental disabilities, intellectual disabilities, substance use disorders, and/or mental illness; transitional facilities; home-based settings to provide services to individuals with physical, intellectual, and/or developmental disabilities, seniors, adults, and children; field offices that provide and help to determine eligibility for basic needs including food, cash assistance, medical coverage, child care, vocational services, rehabilitation services; developmental centers; adoption agencies; businesses that provide food, shelter, and social services, and other necessities of life for economically disadvantaged individuals, individuals with physical, intellectual, and/or developmental disabilities, or otherwise needy individuals.

I work in the construction industry. Am I considered an essential business?

- Yes, you are considered to provide ‘essential infrastructure.’ Individuals may leave their residence to provide any services or perform any work necessary to offer, provision, operate, maintain and repair essential infrastructure. The term ‘construction,’ for this purpose, includes:
 - construction required in response to this public health emergency, hospital construction, construction of long-term care facilities, public works construction, and housing construction); building management and maintenance; airport operations; aircraft fueling services; operation and maintenance of utilities, including water, sewer, and gas; electrical (including power generation, distribution, and production of raw materials); distribution centers; oil and biofuel refining; roads, highways, railroads, and public transportation; cybersecurity

operations; flood control; operation of dams, locks, ditches, canals, diversions, and levies; solid waste and recycling collection and removal; and internet, video, and telecommunications systems (including the provision of essential global, national, and local infrastructure for computing services, business infrastructure, communications, and web-based services).

- Essential Infrastructure shall be construed broadly to avoid any impacts to essential infrastructure, broadly defined.

Will golf courses be able to stay open?

- The Governor's Directive allows for the operation and maintenance of golf courses to support local outdoor recreation opportunities.
- Golf courses should take measures to implement social distancing requirements, should close social gathering spaces and retail offerings and should clean restrooms in accordance with CDC guidelines.

I am/own a landscaping business. Is this considered an essential business?

- No, landscaping is generally not considered to be an essential business.
- In limited circumstances, landscaping to maintain the value of a business's inventory, preserve the condition of the business's physical plant and equipment, or to address a risk to a home or business would be considered an essential business. Snow removal services would also be considered essential. Functions like lawn maintenance and residential irrigation would not be considered essential.

I am a farmer/rancher. Am I considered an essential business?

- Yes, food, beverage and agriculture are considered essential, including cultivation, marketing, production, and wholesale or retail distribution of animals and goods for consumption.
- Individuals may leave their residence to provide any services or perform any work necessary to offer, provision, operate, maintain and repair essential infrastructure - which includes food production, distribution, storage and sale (e.g. those that sell livestock, crops, etc.).
- Businesses that provide equipment, transportation, seed, feed, fertilizer, or other products or services critical to food, agriculture and livestock production may remain open.

I work/own an auto or bike shop. Will I be able to remain open?

- Yes, businesses needed for transportation are considered essential. This includes auto supply, auto repair, and related facilities and bicycle shops and related facilities.

I am a tradesman/woman (plumber, electrician, exterminator, cleaner/janitor, security). Am I considered essential?

- Yes, you are considered to be a 'critical trade.'
- Building and Construction Tradesmen and Tradeswomen, and other trades including but not limited to plumbers, electricians, exterminators, cleaning and janitorial staff for commercial and governmental properties, security staff, operating engineers, HVAC, painting, moving and relocation services, and other service providers who provide

services that are necessary to maintaining the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of residences, essential activities, and essential businesses/operations.

I work at a post office/shipping/delivery service. Am I considered essential?

- Yes, you are considered to be a ‘critical trade.’ This includes post offices and other businesses that provide shipping and delivery services, and businesses that ship or deliver groceries, food, alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages, goods or services to end users or through commercial channels.

Are airlines, buses, taxis and ride-shares able to provide services still?

- Yes, airlines, taxis, transportation network providers (such as Uber and Lyft), vehicle rental services, paratransit, and other private, public, and commercial transportation and logistics providers necessary for essential activities and other purposes authorized in the Directive are allowed to operate.

I work in the mining/energy/petroleum/forest products industry. Am I considered an essential business?

- Yes, the following is allowed to operate: manufacturing companies, distributors, and supply chain companies producing and supplying essential products and services in and for industries such as pharmaceutical, technology, biotechnology, Health Care, chemicals and sanitization, waste pickup and disposal, agriculture, food and beverage, transportation, energy, steel and steel products, petroleum and fuel, forest products, mining, construction, national defense, communications, as well as products used by other Essential Businesses and Operations.

I am a first responder/EMT/dispatcher/court personnel/law enforcement/corrections/child protection/fire/military/local Tribal or state government. Am I considered an essential business?

- Yes, you are considered to provide an essential Governmental Function.
- All first responders, emergency management personnel, emergency dispatchers, court personnel, law enforcement and corrections personnel, hazardous materials responders, child protection and child welfare personnel, fire protection personnel, wildland fire fighters, housing and shelter personnel, military, government employees involved in training the above functions, and other government employees are categorically exempt from this Directive.
- State government employees are categorically exempt from this Directive.
- Local governments are permitted to designate which functions and employees are essential and exempt for the purposes of this Directive, apart from those positions and functions named above.
- Nothing in this Directive shall be interpreted or applied in a way that interferes with or supersedes tribal sovereignty.

I operate a retail establishment. Can I continue serving customers through a curbside pickup or delivery sales model?

- No, retail businesses that do not fall into another exempted category are not permitted to continue operation, other than to fulfill online orders that will be shipped to customers. In that case, you must have no greater than 10 employees in your establishment and you must maintain at least 6 feet of separation between each employee, as well as follow sanitation guidelines.

Can I Leave My House? What Businesses Will Remain Open

I need groceries/supplies/subscriptions. Can I leave my house to get them?

Individuals may leave their home or residence only to perform essential activities. Essential activities still require maintaining a distance of six feet from others at all times. Relating to your question, essential activities include leaving your residence for:

- ‘Necessary supplies and services’. To obtain necessary services or supplies for themselves and their family or household members, or to deliver those services or supplies to others, such as, by way of example only and without limitation, groceries and food, household consumer products, supplies they need to work from home, and products necessary to maintain the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of residences.

I need exercise. Can I leave my house to recreate/fish/camp/exercise?

Individuals may leave their home or residence only to perform essential activities. Essential activities still require maintaining a distance of six feet from others at all times. Relating to your question, essential activities include leaving your residence for:

- Yes, you can engage in outdoor activity, provided that individuals comply with social distancing (6’ from others), such as, by way of example and without limitation, walking, hiking, running, or biking. Individuals may go to public parks and open outdoor recreation areas, including public lands in Montana provided they remain open to recreation.
- Montanans are discouraged from outdoor recreation activities that pose enhanced risks of injury or could otherwise stress the ability of local first responders to address the COVID-19 emergency (*e.g.*, backcountry skiing in a manner inconsistent with avalanche recommendations or in closed terrain).

Additional considerations (related to recreation/fishing and boating): Guidelines for Services at State Parks, Fishing Access Sites and Wildlife Management Areas

- At this time, Montana State Parks, Fishing Access Sites and Wildlife Management Areas remain open to day-use. Social distancing applies, and respect for the resources is critical to keeping public lands in Montana open. Because travel exacerbates the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, the public should use public lands in their communities, and non-local travel to sites is strongly discouraged.

- Surrounding states have closed their sites to overnight use. Our federal partners are also closing developed sites and campgrounds. Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks will close its campgrounds and lands to overnight use to be consistent with our federal partners and sister states, and to prevent those from other states who are travelling in search of a state that is open for camping.
- Until further notice:
 - Sites remain open for day use.
 - Visitor Centers and Park Offices remain closed to the public.
 - No overnight use permitted.
 - Playgrounds will close on Saturday, March 28, 2020.
 - Group use areas will close on Saturday, March 28, 2020.
 - No new special use permits will be issued
 - Public programs and special events remain cancelled.
- In addition to this reduction in service, employees will also evaluate ongoing maintenance of restroom facilities. Reducing the number of latrine facilities must still provide for the basic service of latrine availability. Closed latrines will be signed as closed and open latrines will be signed to make the public aware that the frequency of cleaning may be limited. Availability of supplies and appropriate PPE will be considered as the priority in whether ongoing latrine maintenance is possible. We will not ask employees to do this work without proper protective equipment.
- State parks: Overnight camping and group use sites will be closed until further notice.
- Additionally, the public can anticipate few bathroom facilities at state park/fishing access sites as we are limited on staff and supplies to keep them cleaned.
- Most parks and access sites open at this time. The closure of state parks and public access sites are being evaluated on a case-by-case basis (re: public safety concerns, employee safety). Information to be posted on FWP Parks [website](#) and sent out in press release/media advisory.
- Fishing and hunting licenses must be purchased online (offices closed). For more information, see [FWP website](#).
- Watercraft inspection stations are mandatory in Montana and will continue to operate at this time. For more information: [CleanDrainDry.MT.GOV](#)
- Federally managed parks and public lands (e.g. USFS, BLM, BOR) also closing some public access/lands due to lack of staffing and supplies (e.g. bathrooms, etc.). Please check in with those agencies for specific closures.

My kid/wife/husband/friend/pet needs a prescription/medical attention/emergency dental procedure. Can I/we/they leave the house to get them?

- Yes, for ‘health and safety’ and purposes, this is considered an essential activity. To engage in activities or perform tasks essential to their health and safety, or to the health and safety of their family or household members (including, but not limited to, pets), such as, by way of example only and without limitation, seeking emergency services, obtaining medical supplies or medication, or visiting a health care professional.

- Yes, to ‘take care of others.’ To care for a family member, friend, or pet in another household, and to transport family members, friends, or pets as allowed by this Directive.

Will grocery stores/gas stations/pharmacies remain open?

- Yes, stores that sell groceries and medicine will remain open. This includes but is not limited to: grocery stores, pharmacies, farm and produce stands, supermarkets, convenience stores, and other establishments engaged in the retail sale of groceries, canned food, dry goods, frozen foods, fresh fruits and vegetables, pet supplies, fresh meats, fish, and poultry, alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages, and any other household consumer products (such as cleaning and personal care products).
 - This also includes stores that sell non-grocery products that are necessary to maintain the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of residences and Essential Businesses and Operations.
- Licensed medical cannabis dispensaries and licensed cannabis cultivation centers may remain open.

Can I still get pet food/supplies?

- Yes, businesses that provide food, shelter, and other necessities of life for animals, including veterinary and animal health services, animal shelters, rescues, kennels, and adoption facilities may remain open.

Will the hardware store remain open?

- Yes, hardware stores and businesses that sell electrical, plumbing, and heating material are considered essential.

Will my bank/real estate office/accountant remain open?

- Yes, businesses that provide financial and real estate services are considered essential.
- This includes: banks, consumer lenders, including but not limited, to pawnbrokers, accountants, consumer installment lenders and sales finance lenders, credit unions, appraisers, realtors or others providing real estate services, title companies, financial markets, trading and futures exchanges, affiliates of financial institutions, entities that issue bonds, related financial institutions, and institutions selling financial products.
- Professional services, such as legal services, accounting services, insurance services, information technology services, real estate services (including appraisal and title services) are also included in essential services.

Will the laundromat remain open?

- Yes, laundromats, dry cleaners, industrial laundry services, and laundry service providers may remain open.

Will restaurants remain open?

- Restaurants may remain open, but only for consumption off-premises.
- Restaurants and other facilities that prepare and serve food, but only for consumption off-premises, through such means as in-house delivery, third-party delivery, drive-through, curbside pick-up, and carry-out.

Can schools still provide food services (for consumption off-site)?

- Schools and other entities that typically provide food services to students or members of the public may continue to do so under the Directive on the condition that the food is provided to students or members of the public on a pick-up and takeaway basis only.
- Schools and other entities that provide food services under this exemption shall not permit the food to be eaten at the site where it is provided, or at any other gathering site due to the virus's propensity to physically impact surfaces and personal property.

Will hotels remain open?

- Yes, hotels and motels, to the extent used for lodging and delivery or carry-out food services will be able to stay open.

Will funeral services be available during this time?

- Yes, funeral, mortuary, cremation, burial, cemetery, and related services will still be able to operate. Funeral services should endeavor to practice social distancing requirements.

Specific Populations (Daycares, Homelessness and Social Services)

Are homeless people covered by this order? Are social services still available?

- Individuals experiencing homelessness are exempt from this Directive, but are strongly urged to obtain shelter, and governmental and other entities are strongly urged to make such shelter available as soon as possible and to the maximum extent practicable and to use in their operation COVID-19 risk mitigation practices recommended by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS).
- Organizations that provide charitable and social services are considered 'essential.' Businesses and religious and secular nonprofit organizations, including food banks, when providing food, shelter, and social services, and other necessities of life for economically disadvantaged or otherwise needy individuals, individuals who need assistance as a result of this emergency, and people with disabilities.
- In addition, residential facilities and shelters for adults, seniors, children, and/or people with developmental disabilities, intellectual disabilities, substance use disorders, and/or mental illness are considered essential.
- Reach out to shelters, food banks and other social services in your local community for specific available resources and operations updates.

Does this order close daycares? (SUGGESTED LANGUAGE)

- Daycare facilities serving the caregivers of the following critical response personnel may remain open:
 - Medical staff, first responders, emergency management personnel, emergency dispatchers, court personnel, law enforcement and corrections personnel, hazardous materials responders, child protection and child welfare personnel, fire

protection personnel, wildland fire fighters, housing and shelter personnel, military, and government employees involved in training the above functions.

Why did you decide to close barber shops and salons? Why not do it earlier?

- Many of these businesses cannot operate while adhering to social distancing guidelines.
- As COVID-19 cases continue to grow, it is necessary to close all non-essential businesses and operations. I know many workers in the barber and cosmetology industry are self-employed and I'm pleased that the federal stimulus package allows self-employed citizens to access UI benefits during this challenging time.

Unemployment and Assistance

*These are Agency-Approved key messages/talking points

- The COVID-19 emergency is now impacting the work and personal lives of Montanans throughout our state. The Montana Department of Labor & Industry is closely following the changing dynamics and policies at the state and federal level.
- For employees who have been affected by COVID-19, you may be eligible for Unemployment Insurance. Through our UI Emergency Rule, eligibility for UI has expanded.
- The CARES Act that is going through Congress right now will also likely affect eligibility, benefit amount, and the duration of benefits.
- To apply for Unemployment Insurance, please visit [MontanaWorks.gov](https://montanaworks.gov).
- As you've seen, claims are at unprecedented levels, and the site is getting a lot of traffic. We have implemented changes and applied resources to keep the site functioning. We appreciate your patience.
- Employers who are reducing hours or laying off staff need to let those employees know that they may be eligible for UI. An unpaid temporary closure of an employer's operations functions as a lay-off from work. Please encourage them to file at [MontanaWorks.gov](https://montanaworks.gov).
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- Unemployment compensation is a federal- state partnership. During this emergency, federal law governs, while state programs deliver the benefits. To do that, the states must await final passage and guidance, then operationalize those changes via technology, changed business processes, and shifting staff resources to support delivery of critical benefits to Montanans. We will be updating this information daily at: <http://dli.mt.gov/employer-covid-19>

- The proposed Stimulus Package has three components that will be administered by the Montana Department of Labor & Industry:
 - Pandemic Unemployment Assistance – this is a benefit designed for self-employed, independent contractors, those people who are generally not otherwise covered by UI, and who are unable to work due to the COVID emergency.
 - How to prepare to apply for benefits: Gather proof of income documents together – recent tax return, 1099s, whatever documents show past earnings.
 - Be patient – The Department of Labor & Industry will be working to program systems to accept PUA claims.
 - This is new federal/state program and federal guidance is pending.
 - Emergency Increase in Unemployment Benefits – this is an extra \$600 payment per week for up to four months. Information will be forthcoming.
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POWERED BY



COVID-19 DISASTER RELIEF LOANS & PROGRAMS FOR BUSINESSES

Updated 4-1-2020

SBA TOOLS

Best link for SBA Disaster Assistance Info

<https://www.sba.gov/page/coronavirus-covid-19-small-business-guidance-loan-resources>

Economic Impact Disaster Loan(EIDL)

Program Overview

The SBA's Economic Injury Disaster Loan(EIDL) program provides small businesses with working capital loans of up to \$2 million that can provide vital economic support to small businesses to help overcome the temporary loss of revenue they are experiencing.

Economic Injury Disaster Loan Advance

Program Overview

In response to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, small business owners in all U.S. states, Washington D.C., and territories are eligible to apply for an Economic Injury Disaster Loan advance of up to \$10,000.

The loan advance will provide economic relief to businesses that are currently experiencing a temporary loss of revenue. Funds will be made available within three days of a successful application, and this loan advance will not have to be repaid.

Additional SBA Products listed on their website

SBA Debt Relief – 7A Loans

Program Overview

The SBA Debt Relief program will provide a reprieve to small businesses as they overcome the challenges created by this health crisis.

Under this program:

- The SBA will also pay the principal and interest of **new 7(a) loans** issued prior to September 27, 2020.
- The SBA will pay the principal and interest of **current 7(a) loans** for a period of six months.

Express Bridge Loan Pilot Program – Gap Financing while waiting for EIDL

Program Overview

Allows small businesses who currently have a business relationship with an SBA Express Lender to access up to \$25,000 with less paperwork. These loans can provide vital economic support to small businesses to help overcome the temporary loss of revenue they are experiencing and can be a term loans or used to bridge the gap while applying for a direct

If a small business has an urgent need for cash while waiting for decision and disbursement on Economic Injury Disaster Loan, they may qualify for an SBA Express Disaster Bridge Loan using a local lender.

Terms

- Up to \$25,000
- Fast turnaround
- Will be repaid in full or in part by proceeds from the EIDL loan

CARES ACT BUSINESS TOOL

Paycheck Protection Program (PPP)

Created through the CARES Act and Implemented by SBA

An SBA loan that helps businesses keep their workforce employed during the Coronavirus (COVID-19) crisis.

Program Overview

The Paycheck Protection Program is a loan designed to provide a direct incentive for small businesses to keep their workers on the payroll.

SBA will forgive loans if all employees are kept on the payroll for eight weeks and the money is used for payroll, rent, mortgage interest, or utilities.

The Paycheck Protection Program will be available through June 30, 2020.

Who Can Apply

This program is for any small business with less than 500 employees (including sole proprietorships, independent contractors and self-employed persons), private non-profit organization or 501(c)(19) veterans organizations affected by coronavirus/COVID-19.

Businesses in certain industries may have more than 500 employees if they meet the SBA's size standards for those industries.

Small businesses in the hospitality and food industry with more than one location could also be eligible at the store and location level if the store employs less than 500 workers. This means each store location could be eligible.

How to Apply

You can apply through any existing SBA 7(a) lender or through any federally insured depository institution, federally insured credit union, and Farm Credit System institution that is participating. Other regulated lenders will be available to make these loans once they are approved and enrolled in the program. You should consult with your local lender as to whether it is participating in the program.

Lenders may begin processing loan applications as soon as April 3, 2020.

Loan Details and Forgiveness

The loan will be fully forgiven if the funds are used for payroll costs, interest on mortgages, rent, and utilities (due to likely high subscription, at least 75% of the forgiven amount must have been used for payroll). Loan payments will also be deferred for six months. No collateral or personal guarantees are required. Neither the government nor lenders will charge small businesses any fees.

Forgiveness is based on the employer maintaining or quickly rehiring employees and maintaining salary levels. Forgiveness will be reduced if full-time headcount declines, or if salaries and wages decrease.

This loan has a maturity of 2 years and an interest rate of .5%.

If you wish to begin preparing your application, you can [download a sample form](#) to see the information that will be requested from you.

BIG SKY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT LOAN TOOL

Big Sky Economic Development Business Stabilization Loan

Program Overview

During this challenging time for our business community, the Big Sky Economic Development(BSED) Board of Directors have allocated funds to a BSED Business Stabilization Loan Fund. This loan fund is designed to directly help our business community during this difficult time. This is a local loan fund, administered locally by the professional team at Big Sky Economic Development.

The BSED Business Stabilization Loan Fund currently has \$250,000 available. To help small businesses weather the COVID-19 storm, we are offering loans (up to \$15,000) as an interim option to help with cash flow while one applies for SBA disaster funds (EIDL). These funds are not designed for those who can access capital through traditional commercial banks and must be repaid upon approval of an SBA disaster loan.

Loan amount: up to \$15,000 per owner/affiliate

Term:

- SBA Disaster Loan approved: 12-month interest only note for applicants approved for SBA disaster loan relief – (Loan to be repaid in full upon receipt of SBA disaster loan funds)
- SBA Disaster Loan declined: 3-year (max term) amortization with required interest only payments for 6 months for those not approved/denied by the SBA for disaster loan relief. P&I payments to begin 7th of the month
- Must provide copy of SBA denial of disaster loan funds to continue with full amortization.
- Interest Rate: 2.0 % fixed (with automatic payments)
- Collateral: unsecured with Personal Guaranty required of all 20% or more owners
- Use of funds: unrestricted working capital for the operation of the applicant (no refinance of existing term debt)
- Borrower may repay loan at any time without penalty
- Business must be for profit

Please know that approval for the BSED Stabilization Loan process includes three steps:

Step 1: Complete this survey and submit to BSED team for criteria review (see link below)

Applications review begins upon receipt, applications will be accepted through April 3rd.

Applications will be reviewed in the order received.

Step 2: BSED Team member will contact you to notify you if your business has met the basic criteria. If yes, they will request additional documentation (documents checklist – [Get Ready](#))

Step 3: Loan decision, with approval loan documents will be signed and funds dispersed. If your business does not receive the BSED Business Stabilization Loan, one of BSED team members will contact you to discuss options for your business.

[CLICK HERE TO BEGIN SURVEY](#)



POWERED BY



COVID-19 Workforce Information, Resources and Step by Step Guides for Employers & Employees

The best place to start is HERE: [Montana Department of Labor and Industry Covid 19](#)

Included in this site are links for the following:

- [How to file unemployment on MontanaWorks](#) This is a step-by-step video guide. If you'd prefer screen shots, these are attached "UI Step by Step Screenshots 2020"
- [Frequently asked questions](#)
- [How to file a request for payment on MontanaWorks](#) This is a step-by-step video guide.
- [Covid 19 scenarios and benefits](#) This flier is attached as a pdf "COVID-19- Scenarios and Benefits"
- Information on the Families First Coronavirus Response Act
- CDC guidelines for workplace safety and health

Some things to remember – employees are considered "Job Attached" if their job will be available after the COVID-19 issues is resolved. These employees do not need to apply for jobs to obtain unemployment. Additionally, if employees are having to reduce their hours due to COVID-19, they are eligible to receive unemployment for the reduced hours.

If you have additional questions/challenges please don't hesitate to reach out to Director of BillingsWorks, Karen Miller (karen@bigskyeda.org) Also, our local Job Service is the best resource for this information. At the moment their local office is closed but you can leave a message at 406.655.6040 and/or email them at Billingsjsc@mt.gov. You may also contact MontanaWorks at 406-444-2840 or email them at dliquestions@mt.gov

If you are wanting more information on the CARES act as it pertains to employees, the best site is HERE: [Guide to the CARES Act](#). The CARES Act includes [Paycheck Protection Program \(PPP\)](#) which provides capital to cover the cost of retaining employees.



FEMA

Daily Operations Briefing

Saturday, March 28, 2020

8:30 a.m. ET

National Current Operations & Monitoring



FEMA

Significant Incidents or Threats:

- COVID-19
- Severe Weather – Midwest
- Critical Fire Weather – Southwest TX

Declaration Activity:

- Approval: Major Disaster Declaration – SC, GU, PR
- Request: Major Disaster Declaration – DC

COVID-19 Update



FEMA

Situation: FEMA and HHS continue to work requirements supporting state, tribal, and territorial requests.

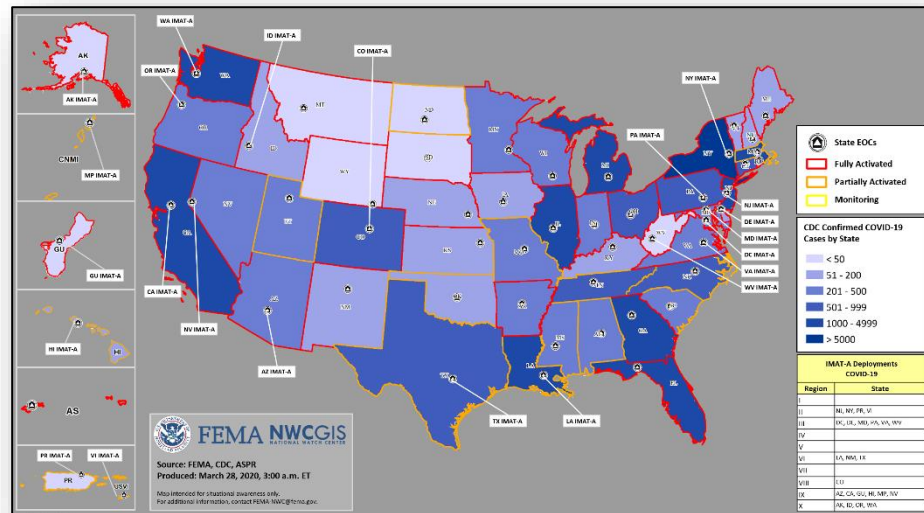
- All 50 states, the District of Columbia, 5 territories, and 5 tribal nations are working directly with FEMA under the nationwide emergency declaration
- Using new acquisitions, the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS), and Department of Defense allocations, FEMA is leading the coordinated Federal agency efforts increasing hospital capacity, community-based testing sites (CBTS), and significant deployment of personal protective equipment and medical equipment
- **FEMA is continuing to work with industry partners on distributing PPE; prioritizing sending ventilators and Federal Medical stations to areas in greatest need**
- 17 states and 4 tribes have issued shelter-in-place orders (*HHS/FEMA COVID-19 SLB, as of 5:00 p.m. ET Mar 27*)

State / Local Response:

- All State / Territories EOCs activated
- National Guard Bureau: 29 (+3) states (AK, AZ, CA, CO, CT, FL, GU, IL, IN, LA, MA, MD, ME, MI, MN, MS, NC, ND, NJ, NM, NV, NY, OH, OK, PR, TN, VA, VI, WI) requested Title 32 Activations
- COVID-19 Major Disaster Declarations in process: 10 (-2)

FEMA / Federal Response:

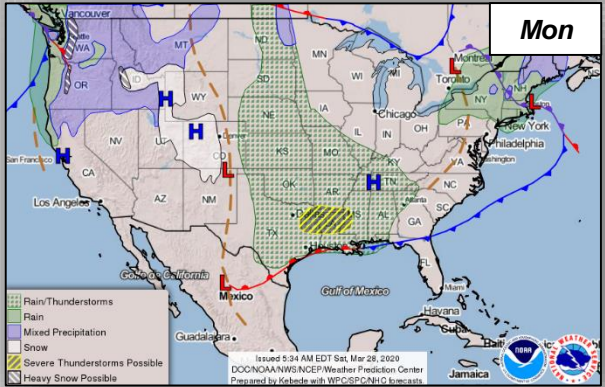
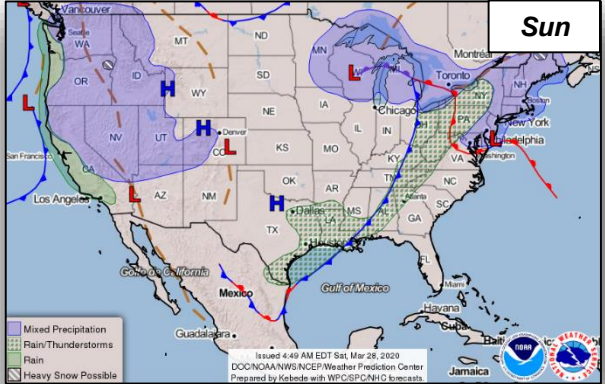
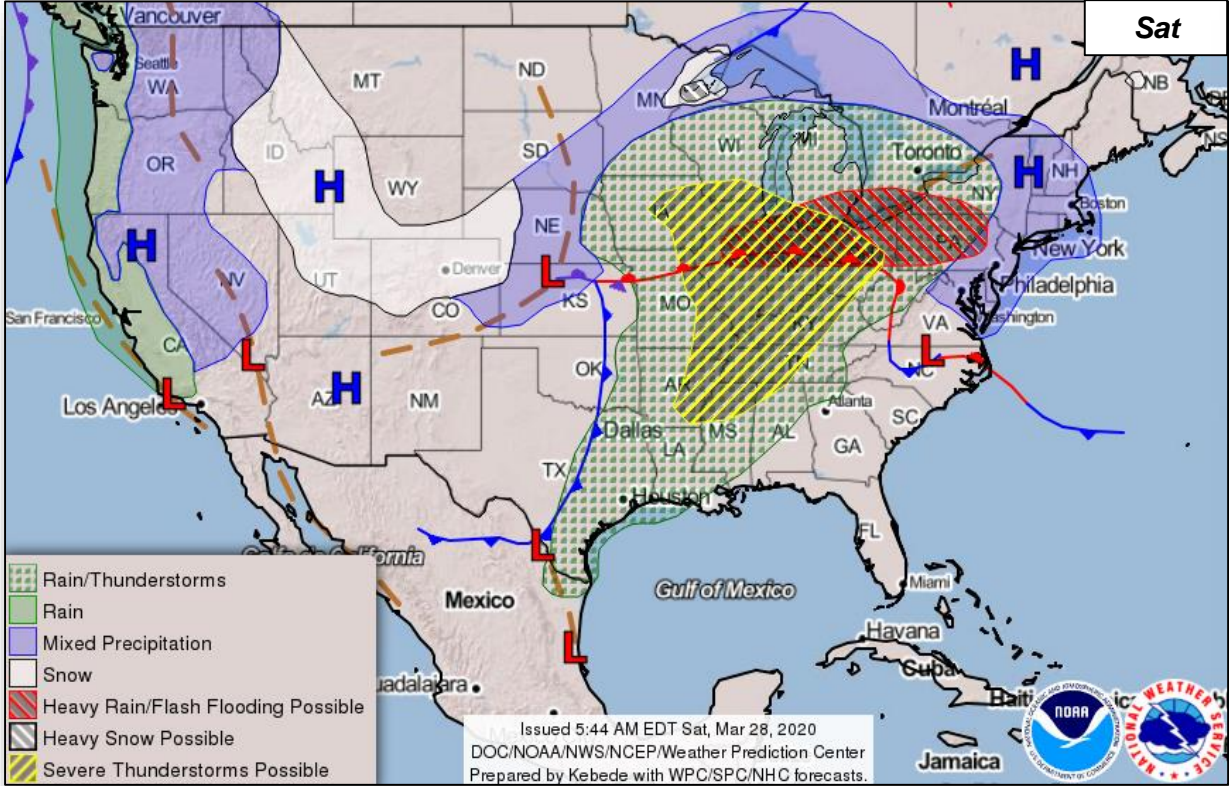
- NRCC: Level I in unified effort with HHS SOC; All RRCCs activated
- 24 IMAT-As and 36 LNOs deployed
- USNS Comfort expected in NYC Mar 30 (*DoD Update, as of 8:53 a.m. ET Mar 27*)
- USNS Mercy hospital ship anticipated to be in CA March 27; operational by March 28 (*DoD Update, as of 8:53 a.m. ET Mar 27,*)
- Dept. State posted Global Level 4 Health Advisory: Do Not Travel
- Approved COVID-19 Major Disaster Declarations: 15 (+3)



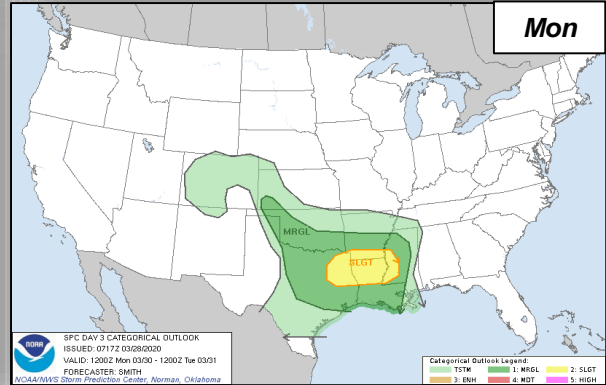
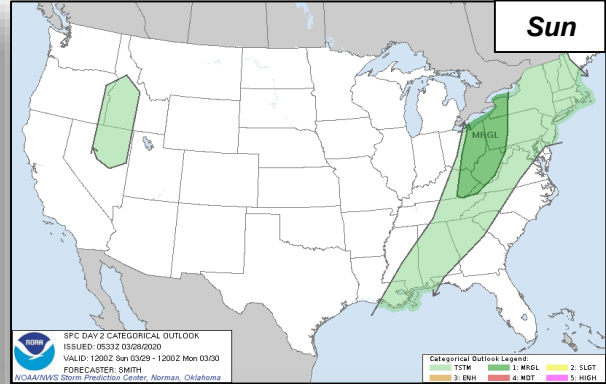
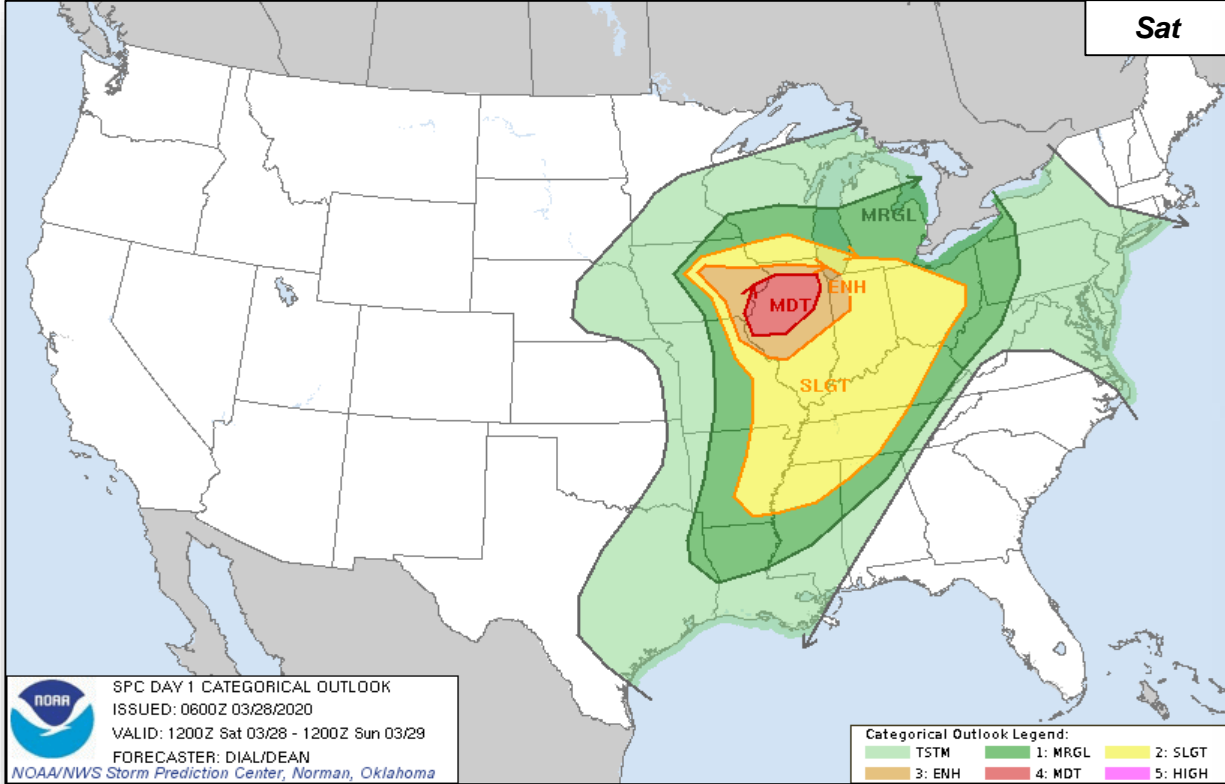
COVID-19 Cases	Confirmed	Deaths
United States	104,194 (+18,775)	1,673 (+413)
Worldwide	509,164 (+46,848)	23,335 (+2,501)

(CDC Morning Report, as of 3:00 a.m. ET, Mar 28)

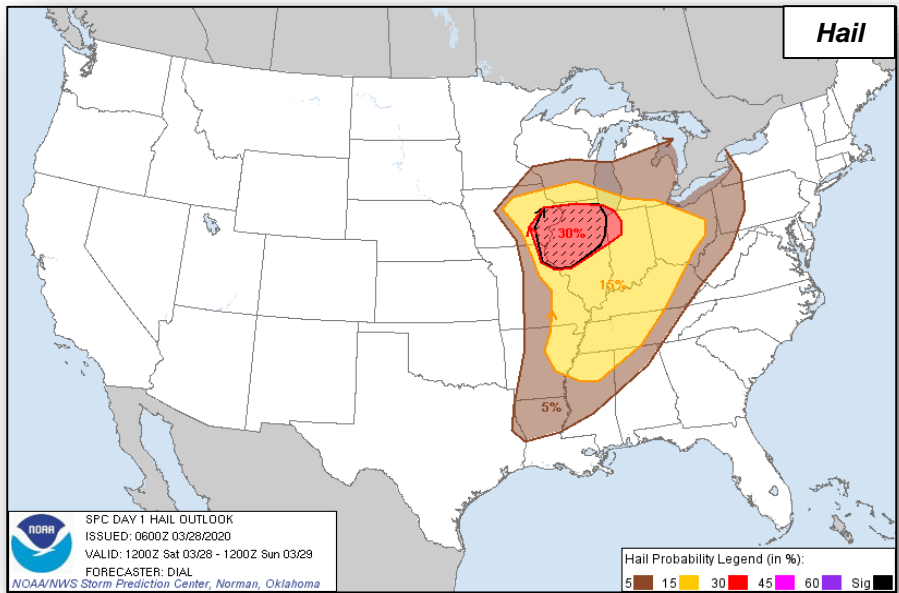
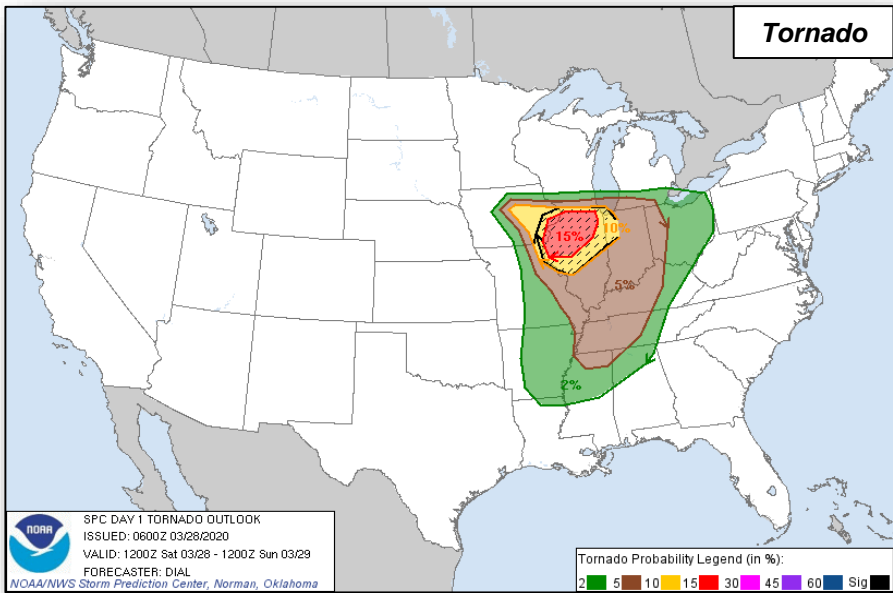
National Weather Forecast



Severe Weather Outlook



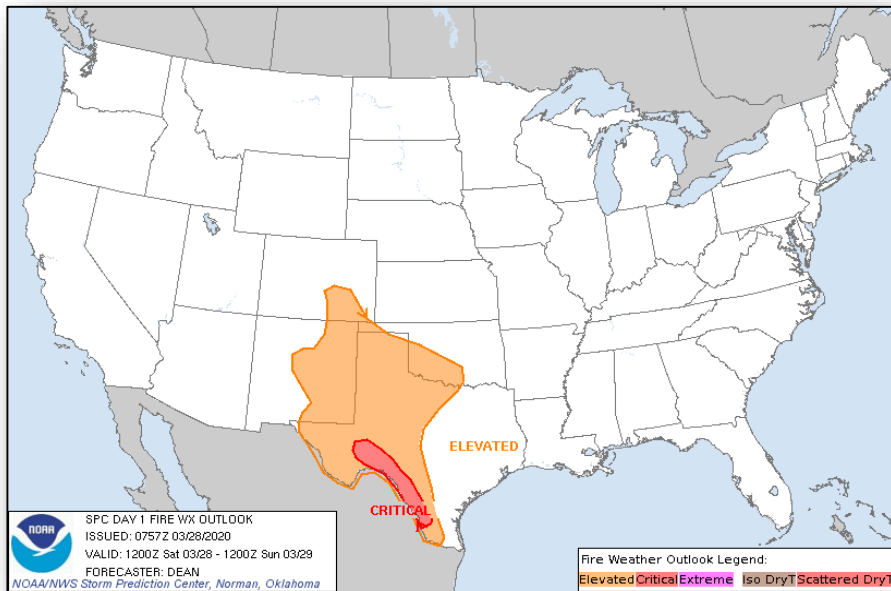
Severe Weather – Moderate Risk for 3/28



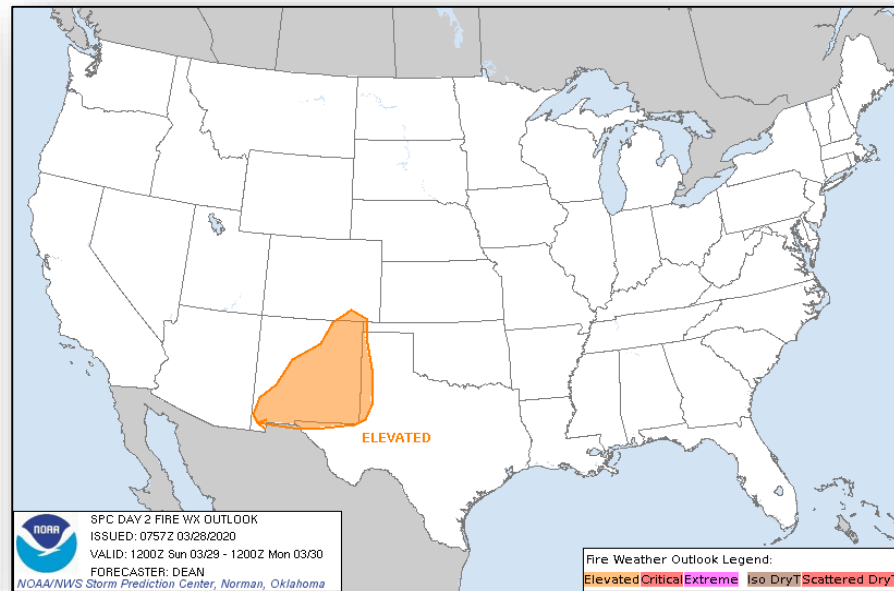
Fire Weather Outlook



FEMA



Today

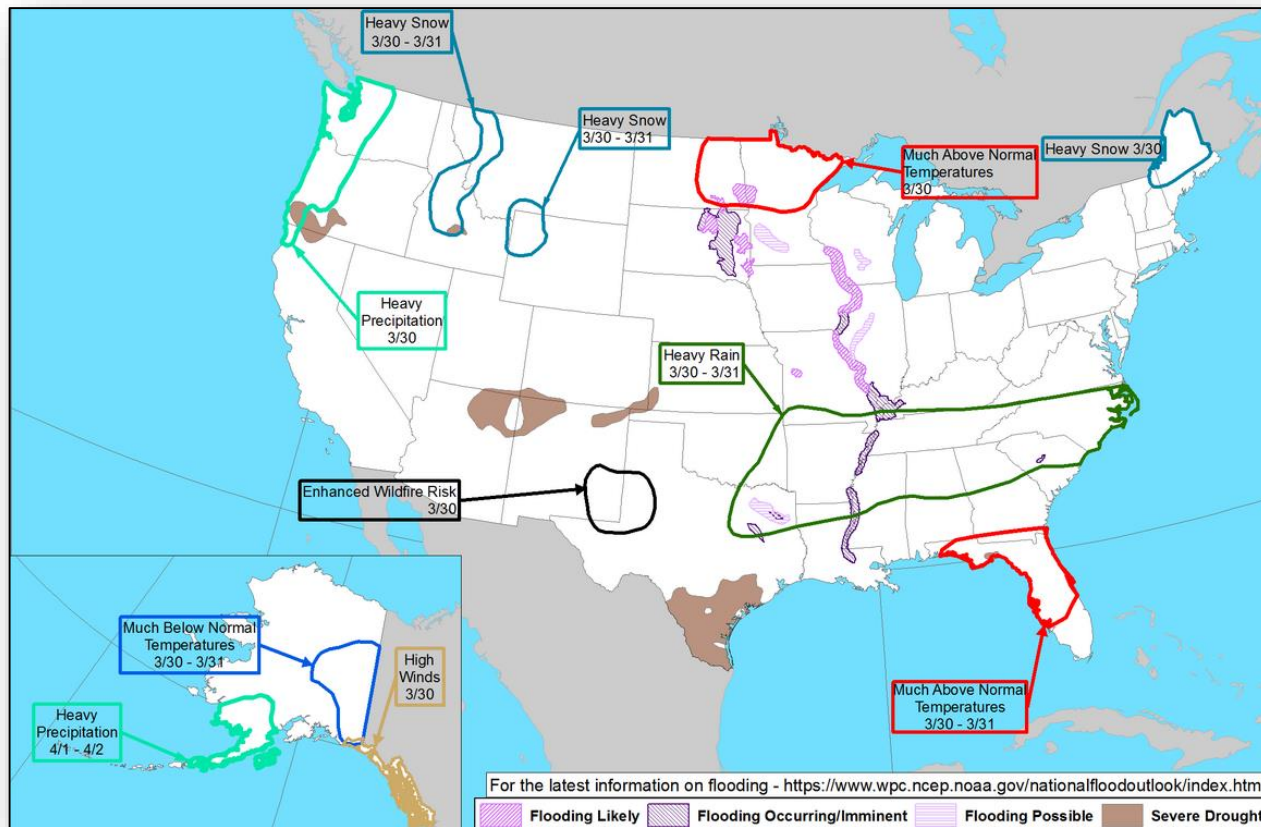


Tomorrow

Hazards Outlook – Mar 30 – Apr 3



FEMA



Joint Preliminary Damage Assessments



FEMA

Region	State / Location	Event	IA/PA	Number of Counties		Start – End
				Requested	Completed	
IV	GA	Severe weather, flooding, tornadoes and straight-line winds Mar 3-5	IA	0	0	N/A
			PA	34	10	3/23 – TBD
X	AK	Kaktovik School Fire Feb 6	IA	0	0	N/A
			PA	1	0	3/17 – TBD

Declaration Approved



FEMA

Declaration: Major Disaster – FEMA-4492-DR-SC
Requested: Mar 24

Approved: Mar 27

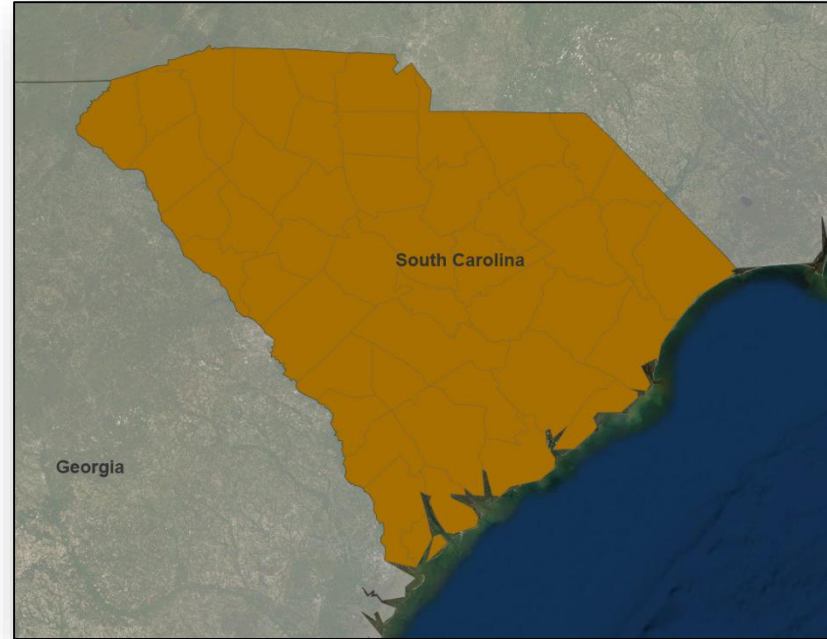
Incident: COVID-19 Pandemic

Incident Period: Jan 20 and continuing

Provides:

- **IA:** Under Review
- **PA:** Emergency protective measures (Category B) not authorized under other Federal statutes, including direct Federal assistance, under the Public Assistance program at 75 percent federal funding for all areas in the State of South Carolina
- **Hazard Mitigation:** Statewide

FCO: Gracia B. Szczech



■ IA & PA

Declaration Approved



FEMA

Declaration: Major Disaster – FEMA-4493-DR-PR

Requested: Mar 21

Approved: Mar 27

Incident: COVID-19 Pandemic

Incident Period: Jan 20 and continuing

Includes:

- **IA:** Under review
- **PA:** Emergency protective measures (Category B), including direct Federal assistance for entire commonwealth

FCO: Alexis Amparo



Declaration Approved



FEMA

Declaration: Major Disaster – FEMA-4495-DR-GU

Requested: Mar 25

Approved: Mar 27

Incident: COVID-19 Pandemic

Incident Period: Jan 20 and continuing

Includes:

- **IA:** Under review
- **PA:** Emergency protective measures (Category B), including direct Federal assistance, for the entire territory
- **Hazard Mitigation:** Under review

FCO: Robert J. Fenton



■ IA & PA

Declaration Request



Declaration: Major Disaster – District of Columbia

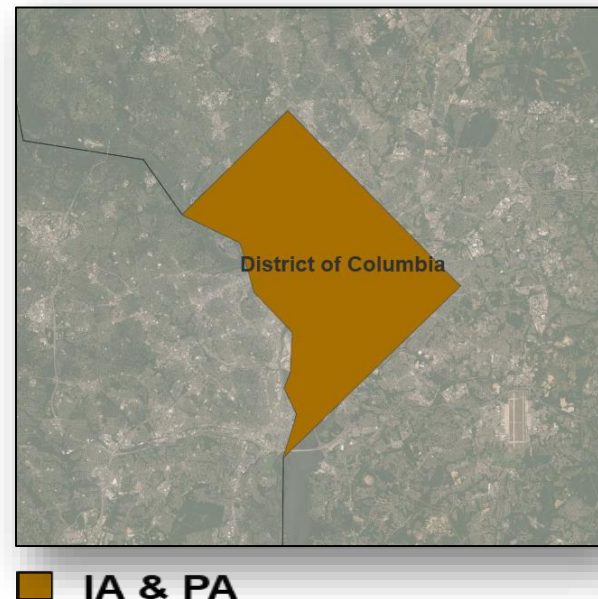
Requested: Mar 27

Incident: COVID-19 Pandemic

Incident Period: Jan 20 and continuing

Includes:

- **IA:** Individuals/Households Program, Crisis Counseling Program and Disaster Unemployment Assistance for the entire district
- **PA:** Debris removal and emergency protective measures (Category B), including direct Federal assistance, for the entire district
- **Hazard Mitigation:** For the entire District



Declaration Requests in Process – 14



FEMA

State / Tribe / Territory – Incident Description	Type	IA	PA	HM	Requested
TX – Severe Storms, Straight-line Winds, and Tornadoes	DR		X	X	Jan 13
AR – Severe Storms, Straight-line Winds, and Tornadoes (Appeal)	DR		X	X	Feb 20
OR – Severe Storms, Flooding, Landslides, and Mudslides	DR	X	X	X	Mar 9
MS – Severe Storms, Flooding, Landslides, and Mudslides	DR		X	X	Mar 17
CNMI – COVID-19 Pandemic	DR	X	X	X	Mar 23
SC – COVID-19 Pandemic – APPROVED (Mar 27)	DR		X	X	Mar 24
PR – COVID-19 Pandemic – APPROVED (Mar 27)	DR		X		Mar 23
GU – COVID-19 Pandemic – APPROVED (Mar 27)	DR		X		Mar 25
KY – COVID-19 Pandemic	DR	X	X	X	Mar 25
CO – COVID-19 Pandemic	DR	X	X	X	Mar 25
MA – COVID-19 Pandemic	DR	X	X	X	Mar 26
MI – COVID-19 Pandemic	DR	X	X	X	Mar 26
CT – COVID-19 Pandemic	DR	X	X		Mar 26
OR – COVID-19 Pandemic	DR	X	X	X	Mar 25
AL – COVID-19 Pandemic	DR	X	X		Mar 26
GA – COVID-19 Pandemic	DR	X	X	X	Mar 26
DC – COVID-19 Pandemic	DR	X	X	X	Mar 27

FEMA Common Operating Picture



FEMA HQ

NWC

Monitoring

NRCC

Level I

FEMA REGIONS

WATCH

Monitoring

RRCC

I

Level II

Monitoring

II

Level III

Monitoring

III

Level II

Monitoring

IV

Level II

Monitoring

V

Level II

Monitoring

VI

Level II

Monitoring

VII

Level II

Monitoring

VIII

Level II

Monitoring

IX

Level I

Monitoring

X

Level II

Notes:

COVID-19

NRCC w/ESFs (Days)

All RRCCs (Days)

GA: Flooding

MS: Flooding

PR : Earthquake

TN: Tornadoes

WA: Storms

Major Disasters (DR): 54

Emergency Disasters (EM): 67

JFOs: 10 / VIFOs: 7

Staging Area

Distribution Center (DC)

Declared County

Fully Activated

Partially Activated

Monitoring

As of 8:00 a.m. ET March 28, 2020

Created by FEMA NWC

DR Declarations

COVID-19

Region	State
I	NY, NY, PR
II	MD
III	FL, NC
IV	IL
V	LA, SC, TX
VI	IA
VII	MO
VIII	CA, GU
IX	WA
Total	15

State EOC Activations

COVID-19

Region	State
I	CT, MA, ME, NH, RI, VT
II	NY, NY, PR, VI
III	DC, DE, MD, PA, VA, WV
IV	AL, FL, GA, KY, MS, NC, SC, TN
V	IL, IN, MI, MN, OH, WI
VI	AR, IA, NM, OK, TX
VII	IA, KS, MO, NE
VIII	CO, MT, ND, SD, UT, WY
IX	AS, AZ, CA, GU, HI, MP, NV
X	AK, ID, OR, WA
Total	56

4420-DR-NE

FCO: Thomas J. Dargatzis

JFO: Lincoln, NE

4469-DR-SD

FCO: Paul Taylor

JFO: TBD

4483-DR-IA

FCO: Paul Taylor

JFO: TBD

4490-DR-MO

FCO: Paul Taylor

JFO: TBD

4451-DR-MO

FCO: John Brogan

JFO: Jefferson City, MO

4414-DR-MN

FCO: Steven W. Johnson

VIFO: Springfield, IL

4457-DR-NH

FCO: James McPherson

JFO: Williston, VT

4445-DR-VT

FCO: James McPherson

JFO: Williston, VT

4432-DR-MA

FCO: James McPherson

JFO: Williston, VT

4439-DR-MA

FCO: James McPherson

JFO: Williston, VT

4410-DR-CT

FCO: John F. Boyle

JFO: Williston, VT

4424-DR-OH

FCO: Steven W. Johnson

VIFO: Springfield, IL

4447-DR-OH

FCO: Steven W. Johnson

VIFO: Springfield, IL

4461-DR-IL

FCO: Steven W. Johnson

VIFO: Springfield, IL

4472-DR-NY

FCO: Seamus Leary

JFO: Albany, NY

4480-DR-NY

FCO: Seamus Leary

JFO: Albany, NY

RII IMAT

COVID-19 Support

(Philadelphia, PA)

4491-DR-MD

FCO: MaryAnn Tierney

JFO: TBD

4428-DR-KY

FCO: Allan Jarvis

VIFO: Frankfort, KY

4465-DR-NC

FCO: Elizabeth Turner

JFO: Durham, NC

4412-DR-NC

FCO: Elizabeth Turner

JFO: Durham, NC

4487-DR-NC

FCO: Gracia B. Szczech

JFO: TBD

4479-DR-SC

FCO: Allan Jarvis

VIFO: Atlanta, GA

4492-DR-SC

FCO: Gracia B. Szczech

JFO: TBD

4473-DR-PR

FCO: Ponce, PR

JFO: TBD

4493-DR-PR

FCO: Ponce, PR

JFO: TBD

4486-DR-FL

FCO: Gracia B. Szczech

JFO: TBD

4399-DR-FL

FCO: Thomas J. McCool

JFO: Panama City, FL

4477-DR-TN

FCO: Myra Shird

JFO: Nashville, TN

4400-DR-GA

FCO: Myra Shird

JFO: Nashville, TN

4471-DR-TN

FCO: Myra Shird

JFO: Nashville, TN

4484-DR-LA

FCO: George Robinson

JFO: TBD

4478-DR-MS

FCO: Terry L. Quarles

JFO: TBD

4458-DR-LA

FCO: John E. Long

VIFO: Baton Rouge, LA

4462-DR-LA

FCO: John E. Long

VIFO: Baton Rouge, LA

4471-DR-TN

FCO: Myra Shird

JFO: Nashville, TN

4476-DR-TN

FCO: Myra Shird

JFO: Nashville, TN

4484-DR-LA

FCO: George Robinson

JFO: TBD

4449-DR-KS

FCO: Dan Best

VIFO: Kansas City, MO

RVII IMAT

4495-DR-GU

FCO: Robert J. Fenton

JFO: TBD

4485-DR-TX

FCO: George A. Robinson

JFO: TBD

4481-DR-WA

FCO: Michael F. O'Hare

VIFO: Bothell, WA

RX IMAT

4475-DR-ND

FCO: Dana C. Reynolds

VIFO: Denver, CO

4432-DR-CA

FCO: David G. Samaniego

JFO: Sacramento, CA

4407-DR-CA

FCO: David G. Samaniego

JFO: Sacramento, CA

MERS

4482-DR-CA

FCO: Robert J. Fenton

JFO: TBD

RIX IMAT-2

Team:

Status

US&R

33 – 65%

MERS

>66%

FCOs

= 2 Type I

FDRCs

=2

IM

WORKFORCE

Assigned:

28

36

47

11

13,780

Unavailable:

15

0

1

0

3,878

Deployed:

0

1 (-1)

40

9

5,250

Available:

13

35 (+1)

6

2

4,652 / 34%

IM CADRE AVAILABILITY SUMMARY

Cadres with 25% or Less Availability

ADR 24% (12/49); EHP 19% (118/619); FL 15% (24/163); PA 25% (756/3,062); SAF 20% (11/55)



FEMA

**FEMA's mission is helping people
before, during, and after disasters.**

Click [here](#) to subscribe to this briefing.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF MONTANA

STEVE BULLOCK
GOVERNOR



MIKE COONEY
LT. GOVERNOR

TO: Montanans; all officers and agencies of the State of Montana
FROM: Governor Steve Bullock
DATE: April 1, 2020
RE: Directive implementing Executive Orders 2-2020 and 3-2020 related to state correctional and state-contracted correctional facilities

Executive Orders 2-2020 and 3-2020 declare that a state of emergency exists in Montana due to the global outbreak of COVID-19 Novel Coronavirus.

Section 10-3-104(2)(a), MCA, authorizes the Governor, during a state of emergency, to “suspend the provisions of any regulatory statute prescribing the procedures for conduct of state business or orders or rules of any state agency if the strict compliance with the provisions of any statute, order, or rule would in any way prevent, hinder, or delay necessary action in coping with the emergency or disaster.” Further, it authorizes the Governor to “control ingress and egress to and from an incident or emergency or disaster area, the movement of persons within the area, and the occupancy of premises within the area.” Section 10-3-104(2)(c), MCA. “[A]ll officers and agencies shall cooperate with and extend their services and facilities to the governor as the governor may request in the carrying out of the purposes of parts 1 through 4 of this chapter.” Section 10-3-305, MCA.

Montana’s public health laws also authorize the Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS), acting under the Governor’s direction, to “issue written orders for correction” of “conditions of public health importance,” to “prevent and mitigate conditions of public health importance” through measures including “isolation and quarantine” and “abatement of public health nuisances.” Section 50-1-202, MCA. DPHHS, under the Governor’s direction, may also take action to correct public health deficiencies in “buildings or facilities where people congregate.” Section 50-1-203, MCA. *See also*, § 50-1-204, MCA (isolation and quarantine measures authorized).

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has issued an interim guidance for correctional and detention facilities.¹ While observing that it “may need to be adapted based on individual facilities’ physical space, staffing, population, operations, and other resources and conditions,” the interim guidance recommends, among other things, that correctional and detention facilities limit the transportation of inmates to and from facilities unless necessary; screen incoming inmates; practice hygiene, cleaning, disinfecting, and social distancing practices to the greatest extent possible; limit contact visitation; and modify programming to accommodate social distancing and limit crowding.

To curtail the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic in Montana, it is necessary to implement measures to prevent the spread of disease in correctional facilities. Such an approach will provide increased safety to inmates and staff during this pandemic. In consultation with public health experts, corrections professionals, and emergency management professionals, and consistent with CDC Interim Guidance on Management of Coronavirus Disease in Correctional and Detention Facilities, I have determined that to protect public health and human safety it is necessary for correctional facilities to implement

¹ See <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/guidance-correctional-detention.pdf>.

operational preparedness, prevention and management practices to address COVID-19, including restrictions on inmate movement. I also find that to the extent existing statutes and rules conflict with these objectives, strict compliance with those statutes and rules, as outlined below, would prevent, hinder, or delay necessary action in coping with the emergency.

Therefore, in accordance with the authority vested in me under the Constitution, Article VI, Sections 4 and 13, and the laws of the State of Montana, Title 10, Chapter 3 and Title 50, Chapter 1, MCA, and other applicable provisions of the Constitution and Montana law, I hereby direct the following measures be in place in the State of Montana effective immediately, except where otherwise specified:

I. Protocols to Protect State Inmate Population and Facilities Staff

- The Montana Department of Corrections (DOC) shall implement risk reduction protocols to address COVID-19 at its state-operated or state-contracted facilities, including the following:
 - Screening all persons arriving at a facility in a manner consistent with CDC guidelines.
 - Restricting all in-person visitations and continuing to provide, to the greatest extent possible, access to non-contact visitation methods. DOC shall continue offering one free video visit and one free phone call for each inmate per week for the duration of in-person visitation restrictions. DOC shall continue providing unmonitored call lines for legal communications and encouraging attorneys to limit in-person visits to essential visits only.
 - Restricting off-site appointments for incarcerated individuals to those necessary to address an inmate's urgent or serious medical needs.
 - Providing support to the Board of Pardons and Parole to consider early release for all of the following, but only so long as they do not pose a public safety risk and can have their medical and supervision needs adequately met in the community:
 - Inmates aged 65 or older;
 - Inmates with medical conditions that place them at high risk during this pandemic or who are otherwise medically frail;
 - Pregnant inmates; or
 - Inmates nearing their release date.
 - Temporarily suspending all transfers into the DOC's custody except as authorized herein.
 - All transfers into the DOC's custody under this Directive shall be quarantined for a period of 14 days on arrival into DOC custody.
 - Before an in-state transfer, a county jail or other originating facility may request that the Director of the DOC determine that the jail or originating facility has satisfactorily implemented risk reduction protocols as outlined above. If the Director determines that risk reduction protocols were satisfactorily implemented, transfers will resume in accordance with this Directive but are still subject to the 14-day quarantine requirement.
 - Counties will continue to be reimbursed under existing reimbursement rates and protocols for these inmates. The statutory requirement to maintain county jail holds at a monthly average of 250 or less is suspended for this purpose only.

- Out-of-state transfers are only permitted on the express approval of the Director, are to be limited to the most pressing or severe cases, and must follow the 14-day quarantine requirement.
 - The Director may suspend all transfers into DOC custody if capacity limitations prevent the ability to quarantine transfers.
- Urging local detention facilities to adopt appropriate screening and operational protocol as contained herein to prevent the introduction or spread of COVID-19 within their facilities and throughout the system.
- Implementing protocols for incarcerated persons who display symptoms of COVID-19, including appropriate testing and isolation protocols. DOC shall continue to work closely with DPHHS on these protocols.
- Providing, to the extent possible, appropriate personal protective equipment to staff as recommended by the CDC.
- Conducting necessary cleaning and disinfecting of facility surface areas.
- Ensuring access to personal hygiene products for incarcerated persons and correctional staff, including soap and water sufficient for regular handwashing. DOC will continue to educate staff and inmates on social distancing, handwashing, and personal hygiene.
- Offering educational and other programming to the greatest extent possible, while practicing social distancing protocol.
- Minimizing crowding, which may include scheduling additional mealtimes and recreational times, as staffing allows, to provide for increased social distancing.
- Nothing in this Directive shall abridge the rights of victims of crime to be notified of or participate in release decisions.

II. Protocols to Protect State Community Supervision Population and Supervising Staff

- The Montana Department of Corrections (DOC) shall implement risk reduction protocols to address COVID-19 risks to offenders on community supervision and the probation and parole officers who supervise them.
- Conditions of supervision remain in full effect and offenders are required to comply with those conditions.
 - To the greatest extent possible, DOC shall reduce in-person contact to only those instances where public safety requires it and conduct other routine contacts via telephone or other means.
 - Pre-Sentence Investigation interviews and risk and needs assessments shall be conducted telephonically.
 - Statutory restrictions on the use of supervision fees to facilitate the purchase of the necessary equipment to further enable remote supervision are suspended for the limited purpose of accomplishing this Directive.

- Where public safety requires physical contact with an individual on community supervision, DOC staff shall practice social distancing and hygiene, and use adequate PPE to the extent possible.
- It is imperative for public safety that those re-entering communities from facilities obtain appropriate, adequate housing during this time where supportive social services are limited. Therefore, any statutory restrictions, as promulgated in ARM 20.13.108, on rental voucher funds are hereby suspended so as to allow additional discretion for these funds to be utilized for any housing-related expense, to ensure adequate re-entry housing.

Authorities: Sections 10-3-103, -104, -302, and -305, MCA; §§ 50-1-103, -202, -203, and -204, MCA; Executive Orders 2-2020 and 3-2020; Montana Constitution, Art. VI, Sections 4 and 13; and all other applicable provisions of state and federal law.

Limitations

- This Directive is effective immediately and expires at the end of the declared state of emergency in Executive Orders 2-2020 and 3-2020, except where otherwise specified.
- This Directive shall be implemented consistent with applicable law and subject to the availability of appropriations.
- Nothing in this Directive shall be construed to limit, modify, or otherwise affect the authority granted by law to the Governor, DOC or the Board of Pardons and Parole, any other department, agency, officer, agent, or employee of the State of Montana, or any local or municipal government except as expressly provided in this Directive or other Directives now in effect implementing Executive Orders 2-2020 and 3-2020.
- This Directive is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by any party against the State of Montana, its departments, agencies, or entities, its officers, employees, or agents, or any other person.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF MONTANA

STEVE BULLOCK
GOVERNOR



MIKE COONEY
LT. GOVERNOR

TO: The People of the State of Montana; all officers and agencies of the State of Montana
FROM: Governor Steve Bullock
DATE: April 2, 2020
RE: Directive implementing Executive Orders 2-2020 and 3-2020 and suspending certain requirements pertaining to online and mail-in driver's licenses renewals

Executive Orders 2-2020 and 3-2020 declare that a state of emergency exists in Montana due to the global outbreak of COVID-19 Novel Coronavirus.

For the duration of the emergency, § 10-3-104(2)(a), MCA, provides authority to the Governor to "suspend the provisions of any regulatory statute prescribing the procedures for conduct of state business or orders or rules of any state agency if the strict compliance with the provisions of any statute, order, or rule would in any way prevent, hinder, or delay necessary action in coping with the emergency or disaster."

In addition, Montana's public health laws authorize the Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS), acting under the Governor's direction, to "issue written orders for correction" of "conditions of public health importance," to "prevent and mitigate conditions of public health importance" through measures including "isolation and quarantine" and "abatement of public health nuisances." Section 50-1-202, MCA. DPHHS, under the Governor's direction, may take action to correct public health deficiencies in "buildings or facilities where persons assemble." Section 50-1-203, MCA. Montana law provides that these authorities will be utilized to respond to an "outbreak of disease," § 10-3-103(4), MCA, and to "limit the transmission of the communicable disease." *See, e.g.*, § 50-1-101(6), MCA.

COVID-19 is an easily transmissible, potentially fatal respiratory illness. It is believed to be transmitted through contact with contaminated surfaces and close contact with contagious individuals. As I found in my March 26, 2020 Directive requiring Montanans to stay at home as much as possible, combating the spread of COVID-19 requires Montanans to practice social distancing and limit their in-person contacts with others to the greatest extent possible. Similarly, state offices should limit the need for in-person encounters with the public whenever possible.

The Attorney General, who oversees the Montana Department of Justice, Motor Vehicle Division (MVD), has requested the temporary suspension of (1) certain requirements pertaining to the process for renewing a driver's license online or by mail; (2) certain requirements relating to the administration of commercial driver's licenses where waiver has been authorized by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA); and (3) certain timelines relating to motor vehicle title and registration transactions. The request is made in light of the measures being taken by the State of Montana and local governments across the state to temporarily modify and restrict access to government offices and require the use of online, mail or telephone access to services where available. The temporary suspensions requested will, in conjunction with my March 17, 2020 Directive extending the expiration dates for certain MVD-issued credentials, further reduce the present need for direct interactions

between Montana citizens and government employees for certain driver's license and vehicle title and registration transactions.

Based on the foregoing considerations, I find that strict compliance with certain requirements related to driver's licenses outlined below, will prevent, hinder, or delay necessary actions in coping with the COVID-19 pandemic.

Therefore, in accordance with the authority vested in me under the Constitution, Article VI, Sections 4 and 13, and the laws of the State of Montana, Title 10, Chapter 3 and Title 50, Chapter 1, MCA, and other applicable provisions of the Constitution and Montana law, I hereby direct the following measures be in place in the State of Montana effective immediately for the duration of the emergency, except as specifically provided herein:

I. Online/Mail Renewal of Driver's License

- MVD may renew a driver's license online or by mail:
 - without submission of an approved vision examination and medical evaluation form;
 - regardless of whether the license was previously renewed online or by mail;
 - so long as the license has not been expired for more than one (1) year; and
 - for a foreign national whose presence in the United States is temporarily authorized, so long as that authorized presence is verified by MVD through the U.S. Customs and Immigration Service's SAVE verification system.
- The duration of any license renewed under this Directive will be no more than two (2) years. Strict compliance with the above-described requirements of § 61-5-111(3)(d), MCA, are temporarily suspended for this limited purpose only. All other requirements of § 61-5-111(3)(d), MCA, remain in effect.

II. Commercial Driver's License Administration

- MVD may temporarily administer the provisions of Title 61, Chapter 5, MCA, relating to commercial driver's licenses in a manner consistent with any temporary waivers authorized by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA).
- Strict compliance with the Title 61 requirements relating to commercial driver's licenses are temporarily suspended for this limited purpose only, and only those provisions of Title 61, Chapter 5, MCA, directly related to a federal waiver authorization are affected. All other requirements of Title 61, Chapter 5, MCA, relating to commercial driver's license administration remain in effect.

III. Statutory Timelines for Certain Motor Vehicle and Driver's License Transactions

- The following statutory timelines for the described motor vehicle and driver's license transactions are hereby extended for a period of ninety (90) days:
 - the deadline for registration and title application for vehicles as applied to vehicles transferred after March 16, 2020 (§ 61-3-220(3), MCA);
 - the deadline for dealer transmittal of title paperwork to a county treasurer or authorized agent for sales occurring after March 16, 2020 (§ 61-4-111(2), MCA); and
 - the deadline for a new Montana resident to (1) register and title vehicles (§ 61-3-302(1)(b), MCA) and secure a Montana driver's license (§ 61-5-103, MCA).

- Strict compliance with these specified statutory timelines is temporarily suspended for this limited purpose only.

Conflicting Administrative Rules Suspended

- To the extent any administrative rules conflict with the provisions of this Directive, strict compliance with the provisions of such rules is suspended for the duration of the emergency.

Authorities: Sections 10-3-103, -104, -302, and -305, MCA; §§ 50-1-202, -203, and -204, MCA; Executive Orders 2-2020 and 3-2020; Montana Constitution, Art. VI, Sections 4 and 13; and all other applicable provisions of state and federal law.

Limitations

- This Directive is effective immediately and expires at the end of the declared state of emergency in Executive Orders 2-2020 and 3-2020.
- This Directive shall be implemented consistent with applicable law and subject to the availability of appropriations.
- Nothing in this Directive shall be construed to limit, modify, or otherwise affect the authority granted by law to the Governor, any department, agency, political subdivision, officer, agent, or employee of the State of Montana, or any local or municipal government except as expressly provided in this Directive or other Directives now in effect implementing Executive Orders 2-2020 and 3-2020.
- This Directive is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by any party against the state of Montana, its departments, agencies, or entities, its officers, employees, or agents, or any other person.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF MONTANA

STEVE BULLOCK
GOVERNOR



MIKE COONEY
LT. GOVERNOR

TO: Montanans; all officers and agencies of the State of Montana
FROM: Governor Steve Bullock
DATE: March 30, 2020
RE: Directive Implementing Executive Orders 2-2020 and 3-2020 providing measures to limit foreclosures, evictions, and disconnections from service

Executive Orders 2-2020 and 3-2020 declare that a state of emergency exists in Montana due to the global outbreak of COVID-19 Novel Coronavirus.

During a state of emergency, § 10-3-104(2)(c), MCA, authorizes the Governor to “control ingress and egress to and from an incident or emergency or disaster area, the movement of persons within the area, and the occupancy of premises within the area.” The Governor may “suspend the provisions of any regulatory statute prescribing the procedures for conduct of state business . . . if the strict compliance with the provisions of any statute . . . would in any way prevent, hinder, or delay necessary action in coping with the emergency or disaster.” Section 10-3-104(2)(a), MCA.

Montana’s public health laws also authorize the Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS or Department), acting under the Governor’s direction, to “prevent and mitigate conditions of public health importance” through, among other things, “isolation and quarantine” measures. Section 50-1-202, MCA; *see also* § 50-1-203, MCA. Montana law provides that these authorities will be utilized to respond to an “outbreak of disease,” § 10-3-103(4), MCA, and to “limit the transmission of the communicable disease.” *See, e.g.,* § 50-1-101(6), MCA.

Montana law expressly contemplates that the Governor may provide for the housing needs of Montanans during a disaster or emergency, which includes the outbreak of communicable disease. *See* § 10-3-313, MCA. Under § 10-3-313(1)(c), MCA, the Governor is authorized to temporarily suspend or modify for up to 60 days any public health or safety, zoning, or transportation laws when the Governor has declared their suspension or modification essential to meet temporary housing needs in an emergency or disaster. Further, Montana law authorizes the Governor to mobilize “the services and facilities of the existing officers and agencies of the state” and provides that “all officers and agencies shall cooperate with and extend their services and facilities to the governor as the governor may request in the carrying out” the response to the emergency. Section 10-3-305(2), MCA.

In responding to the outbreak of COVID-19, I previously determined that it is essential to the health, safety, and welfare of the State of Montana during the ongoing state of emergency that, to the maximum extent possible, individuals stay at home or at their place of residence to prevent opportunities for the transmission of COVID-19. Effective March 28, 2020, I have directed Montanans to stay in their homes to the maximum extent possible, with exceptions for essential travel and essential work, among others.

To stay at home, Montanans must continue to have a home. The outbreak has already taken a significant toll on economic activity in Montana, forcing small business owners to close their doors and generating layoffs, furloughs, and large increases in unemployment claims. Many Montanans are

faced with the loss of their income and with it, the ability to pay their rent or mortgage. Other states across the United States, recognizing the immediate economic shocks of the outbreak combined with the need to allow residents to stay home to curtail the outbreak, have provided temporary moratoriums on evictions and foreclosures.

Accordingly, in consultation with public health experts, health care providers, business leaders, and disaster and emergency professionals, I have determined that it is essential to public health and human safety that Montanans not be subject to eviction or foreclosure, or other actions that might coerce a homeowner or renter into surrendering their home or rental, for lack of payment during the emergency. Evicting Montanans from their homes during the emergency will only worsen the state's ability to respond to the emergency. Because the requirement to stay at home also means that Montanans have the basic utilities to make their home habitable and the basic means to communicate with others and minimize the need to leave their home, I have also determined that it is essential to the public health and human safety that Montanans not be subjected to loss of electricity, water, telephone, or internet services due to lack of payment. These measures are necessary to secure the temporary housing needs of Montanans during the emergency and to implement the requirement that Montanans, where possible, occupy and remain in their homes or places of residence during the emergency to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Therefore, in accordance with the authority vested in me under the Constitution, Article VI, Sections 4 and 13, and the laws of the State of Montana, Title 10, Chapter 3 and Title 50, Chapter 1, MCA, and other applicable provisions of the Constitution and Montana law, I hereby direct the following measures be in place in the State of Montana, effective immediately through April 10, 2020:

I. Limitation on Evictions

- For the duration of this Directive and except as provided herein, there shall be no actions for termination of a tenancy, possession, unlawful holdover, or rent involving a residential dwelling tenancy. No writ, judgment, or order requiring a tenant or authorized guest to surrender or vacate the premises shall be enforced. I request the courts of this State to stay all currently pending actions, related to the above, for the duration of this Directive.
- For the duration of this Directive and except as provided herein, no landlord may:
 - terminate a tenancy or refuse to renew or extend the terms of a residential dwelling tenancy on at least a month-to-month basis;
 - charge or accrue late fees, interest, or other charges, penalties, or amounts due because of nonpayment of rent for the duration of this Directive;
 - increase the amount of rent payable under the terms of a rental agreement (except previously agreed increases or reasonable increases reflecting the size of the unit, number of tenants or guests, or services provided by the landlord);
 - request the suspension or termination of any utilities provided to the tenant based upon nonpayment of utilities, rents, or other amounts due under the rental agreement; or
 - report a residential tenant to a credit bureau for nonpayment of a financial obligation.
- No landlord may at any time seek or collect treble damages based on the failure of a tenant or authorized guest to vacate the premises for the duration of this Directive.
- This Directive does not relieve the obligation of a tenant to pay rent or the obligations of landlords and tenants to comply with any other conditions of the tenancy.

- This Directive does not preclude tenancy terminations, actions for possession, unlawful holdover, or refusals to renew or extend the terms of a tenancy that are based on grounds other than nonpayment of rent, fees, interests, or other monetary obligations, nonpayment of utilities, or other failure of the tenant to perform any other obligation requiring payment or expenditure of money by the tenant; or any action to evict a tenant based on damage or destruction to the premises, criminal activity on the premises, or a threat to the health and safety (except a claim that the tenant or authorized guest could potentially transmit COVID-19) of any person or the public.
- No default judgment may be entered against a defendant in an action for termination, possession, unlawful holdover, or rent for the duration of this Directive.
- These limitations do not apply in the following circumstances:
 - Any eviction action, including but not limited to any request, motion, filing or action taken or made after the tenant (including tenant family members) is no longer in possession and no longer occupies the dwelling unit personally as their home.
 - Property rented for commercial business use.

II. Limitation on Residential Foreclosures

- For the duration of this Directive and except as provided herein, no trustee's sale, sheriff's sale, or other involuntary sale of residential real property (or delivery of any trustee's deed, certificate of sale or sheriff's deed with respect to such sale) shall proceed. Residential real property means a residential structure or mobile home which contains one to four family housing units, or individual units of condominiums or cooperatives.
- For the duration of this Directive and except as provided herein, there shall be no actions for foreclosure of a mortgage, trust indenture, or other lien on residential real property, nor any action seeking a writ, judgment, or order directing the sale of such property or directing the mortgagor, grantor, or other debtor in possession of the property to surrender or vacate the property. No writ, judgment or order directing the sale of residential real property or directing a mortgagor, grantor, or other debtor in possession of the property to surrender or vacate the property shall be enforced. I request the courts of this State to stay any such actions currently pending, related to the above, for the duration of this Directive.
- Nothing in this Directive relieves a borrower, mortgagor, or grantor in possession of real property to pay any financial obligations, including payment of loan principal or interest, insurance, taxes, the accrual of interest, or other financial obligations (except late fees or other charges). No borrower, mortgagor, or grantor in possession of real property, however, may be reported to a credit bureau for nonpayment for the duration of this Directive.
- These limitations do not apply in the following circumstances:
 - For trust indentures and mortgages, any foreclosure based on grounds other than a failure to make payment as required under the trust indenture, mortgage, or related loan notes, instruments, or documents of any loan principal or interest payments, property or title insurance, property taxes and assessments, late fees or other charges, or any other failure of the grantor, mortgagor, or borrower to perform any other obligation requiring payment or expenditure of money by such grantor, mortgagor, or borrower.
 - Any foreclosure based on damage or destruction to the property or to the conduct of criminal activity on the property.

- Any foreclosure, judgment, order, foreclosure sale, trustee's deed, certificate of sale, sheriff's deed, order terminating a right of possession or other request, motion, or filing made after the grantor, mortgagor, or other debtor (including family members) is no longer in possession and no longer occupies the residential property personally as their primary home.

III. Limitation on Utility and Internet Cancellation

- For the duration of this Directive, no business or political subdivision of the State supplying electricity, gas, sewage disposal, water, telephone, or internet services for use, in whole or in part, in a dwelling unit or residence shall terminate that service. No fee or charge for late or untimely payment that becomes due after this Directive takes effect may be billed or collected.

State Agency Action

- All public housing authorities located in the State are hereby requested to extend deadlines for housing assistance recipients or applicants to deliver records or documents pertaining to their eligibility for programs, to the extent that those deadlines are within the discretion of said housing authority(ies).
- The Montana Commissioner of Banking, along with the Montana Department of Commerce, are hereby directed to immediately engage with financial institutions to identify any tools, means, or methods that could be utilized to afford Montanans relief from the threat of residential foreclosure, and to otherwise promote housing stability during this state of emergency, in furtherance of the objectives of this Directive.

Preemption and Suspension

- This Directive supersedes, suspends, or preempts any conflicting state or local statute, rule, ordinance, or order. Nothing in this Directive, however, shall be construed to prevent any local government from imposing more stringent restrictions on evictions and foreclosures to the extent otherwise permitted by law.
- Nothing in this Directive shall, in any way, restrict state or local authority to order any quarantine, isolation, and/or other public health measures that may require an individual to remain in any particular residence or dwelling for the duration of this Directive.
- Nothing in this Directive suspends, modifies, amends, or lessens the rights or obligations of any person except as specifically provided in this Directive.
- Nothing in this Directive prohibits proceedings to remove a person who enters onto residential property without any legal claim of possession or title to said property.

Flexibility

- Parties to rental agreements and mortgages are encouraged to provide flexibility and realistic payment options and plans to minimize the hardship on all parties resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic and related economic adversity.

Authorities: Sections 10-3-104, -103, -302, -305, and -313, MCA; §§ 50-1-103, -202, -203, and -204, MCA; Executive Orders 2-2020 and 3-2020; Montana Constitution, Art. VI, Sections 4 and 13, MCA; and all other applicable provisions of state and federal law.

Limitations

- This Directive is effective immediately and is in effect through April 10, 2020.
- This Directive shall be implemented consistent with applicable law and subject to the availability of appropriations.
- If any provision of this Directive or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, this invalidity does not affect any other provision or application of this Directive, which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application. To achieve this purpose, the provisions of this Directive are declared to be severable.
- This Directive is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by any party against the State of Montana, its departments, agencies, or entities, its officers, employees, or agents, or any other person.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF MONTANA

STEVE BULLOCK
GOVERNOR



MIKE COONEY
LT. GOVERNOR

TO: Montanans; all officers and agencies of the State of Montana
FROM: Governor Steve Bullock
DATE: March 30, 2020
RE: Directive Implementing Executive Orders 2-2020 and 3-2020 and providing mandatory quarantine for certain travelers arriving in Montana from another state or country

Executive Orders 2-2020 and 3-2020 declare that a state of emergency exists in Montana due to the global outbreak of COVID-19 Novel Coronavirus.

Section 10-3-104(2)(a), MCA, authorizes the Governor, during a state of emergency, to “suspend the provisions of any regulatory statute prescribing the procedures for conduct of state business or orders or rules of any state agency if the strict compliance with the provisions of any statute, order, or rule would in any way prevent, hinder, or delay necessary action in coping with the emergency or disaster.” Further, it authorizes the Governor to “control ingress and egress to and from an incident or emergency or disaster area, the movement of persons within the area, and the occupancy of premises within the area.” Section 10-3-104(2)(c), MCA. During a state of emergency, the Governor “is commander-in-chief of the militia and of all other forces available for incident, emergency, or disaster duty.” Section 10-3-305(1), MCA.

Montana’s public health laws authorize the Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS or Department), acting under the Governor’s direction, to “issue written orders for correction” of “conditions of public health importance,” to “prevent and mitigate conditions of public health importance” through measures including “isolation and quarantine” and “abatement of public health nuisances.” Section 50-1-202, MCA. The Department, under the Governor’s direction, may also take action to correct public health deficiencies in “buildings or facilities where persons assemble.” Section 50-1-203, MCA. The Department, under the Governor’s direction, is also authorized to impose quarantine and isolation measures to protect public health. Section 50-1-204, MCA. Montana law provides that these authorities will be utilized to respond to an “outbreak of disease,” § 10-3-103(4), MCA, and to “limit the transmission of the communicable disease.” *See, e.g.,* § 50-1-101(6), MCA.

COVID-19 is an easily transmissible, potentially fatal respiratory disease caused by a novel coronavirus. COVID-19 is a contagion that most frequently spreads person-to-person. The virus may live on surfaces and remain in the air after someone coughs or sneezes for an unknown period of time, creating a range of opportunities for exposure. Exposure can also happen when a person touches a surface or object that has the live virus on it and then touches one’s face. To curtail the spread of COVID-19, it is necessary to ensure all persons within the State of Montana practice social distancing to the greatest extent possible.

Accordingly, to limit the opportunity of COVID-19 transmission through children, on March 15, 2020, I issued a Directive closing schools and limiting nursing homes. To limit the spread of COVID-19 in places where people commonly congregate, on March 20, 2020, I ordered restaurants, bars, breweries, gyms and health clubs, casinos, movie and performance theaters, and similar businesses to close except in limited circumstances. And on March 26, 2020, I issued a Directive requiring all Montanans to stay

at home except for engaging in certain essential activities, businesses, or organizations, and requiring Montanans to practice social distancing when doing so.

COVID-19 has now spread across the United States, with cases in every state and the total number of cases exceeding 100,000. At present, travel is the most common known source of COVID-19 infections in Montana. To curtail the spread of COVID-19 in Montana, and to protect the health and economic wellbeing of all Montanans, and to implement my March 26, 2020, Stay at Home Directive and other Directives, it is necessary immediately to implement measures to prevent the spread of disease with respect to travelers arriving in Montana for non-work-related purposes. Such an approach will reduce the overall number of infections in the state and preserve increasingly scarce health care resources.

In consultation with public health experts, health care providers, and emergency management professionals, I have determined that it is essential to the health, safety, and welfare of the State of Montana during the ongoing state of emergency that all travelers, including Montanans, arriving in Montana from another state or country for a non-work-related purpose must immediately self-quarantine for 14 days or for the duration of the person's presence in Montana, whichever is shorter.

Therefore, in accordance with the authority vested in me under the Constitution, Article VI, Sections 4 and 13, and the laws of the State of Montana, Title 10, Chapter 3 and Title 50, Chapter 1, MCA, and other applicable provisions of the Constitution and Montana law, I hereby direct the following measures be in place in the State of Montana effective immediately:

Self-Quarantine for Persons Arriving in Montana

- Any person coming to Montana from another state or country for a non-work-related purpose must immediately self-quarantine for 14 days. If a person will be present in Montana for fewer than 14 days, that person must self-quarantine for the duration of the visit.
- Any person who has already arrived in Montana from another state or country for a non-work-related purpose before the date of this Directive must immediately self-quarantine for the remainder of a 14-day period beginning on the date of their arrival in Montana, or until their departure from Montana—whichever is sooner.
- The Montana Department of Commerce will advise persons listing hotels, rental properties, or other short-term rentals in Montana—including but not limited to listings on such services as Airbnb, VRBO, HomeAway, and related services—to include notice of the mandatory quarantine for travelers from another state or country.
- These quarantine restrictions do not apply in the following circumstances:
 - to persons traveling through Montana en route to another destination; or
 - to public health, public safety, or healthcare workers
- These quarantine restrictions shall apply to Montana residents and non-residents alike.
- In addition to these restrictions, persons required to self-quarantine under this Directive shall also comply with the requirements of all other Executive Orders and Directives issued by me. This Directive shall not be construed as limiting the effect of any previously issued Directive or Executive Order.

Montana National Guard Authorized to Assist

- The Montana National Guard is authorized to conduct temperature checks, assess individuals for COVID-19 symptoms, and to inquire about the exposure history (*e.g.*, close contact with an infected person) of any traveler arriving in Montana from another state or country through air or rail travel. Such checks may only occur with the express direction and authorization of the Governor and Adjutant General, and only at locations to be determined by the Governor and Adjutant General, consistent with the purposes of this Directive.
- When conducting temperature checks, assessing for symptoms, and inquiring about exposure history, the Montana National Guard will advise travelers arriving in Montana from another state or country of the mandatory quarantine for those traveling to Montana for non-work-related purposes, as well as the Stay at Home order and its limitations on non-essential travel.
- If a traveler has a temperature of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or greater, is otherwise assessed to have COVID-19 symptoms, or who has had close contact with an infected person, the Montana National Guard will refer the individual for assessment by a healthcare provider. The healthcare provider will notify their local county or tribal health department of the location where the traveler intends to quarantine, if applicable.
 - The term “close contact” has the meaning ascribed to it by the Centers for Disease Control, and means:
 - being within approximately 6 feet (2 meters) of a COVID-19 case for a prolonged period of time; close contact can occur while caring for, living with, visiting, or sharing a healthcare waiting area or room with a COVID-19 case;
 - or having direct contact with infectious secretions of a COVID-19 case (*e.g.*, being coughed on).

Directive Is Public Health Order and Enforceable By County Attorney

- This Directive, along with any prior Directive that implements and references the public health authorities of the Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) provided in Title 50, constitutes a “public health . . . order[]” within the meaning of § 50-1-103(2), MCA, and is enforceable by the Attorney General, DPHHS, a county attorney, or other local authorities under the direction of a county attorney.

Local Public Health Agencies to Assist in Administration of this Public Health Order

- Local public health agencies are directed to assist in the administration of this Directive, consistent with § 50-1-202(2)(a), MCA.

Less-Restrictive Local Ordinances Preempted

- This Directive is in effect statewide in Montana. In the interest of uniformity of laws and to prevent the spread of disease, all inconsistent emergency county health ordinances are preempted by this Directive, but only to the extent they are less restrictive.

Authorities: Section 10-3-104, MCA; §§ 50-1-103, -202, -203, and -204, MCA; Executive Orders 2-2020 and 3-2020; Montana Constitution, Art. VI, Sections 4 and 13; §§ 10-3-103, -302, and -305, MCA; and all other applicable provisions of state and federal law.

Limitations

- This Directive is effective immediately through April 10, 2020.

- This Directive shall be implemented consistent with applicable law and subject to the availability of appropriations.
- If any provision of this Directive or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, this invalidity does not affect any other provision or application of this Directive, which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application. To achieve this purpose, the provisions of this Directive are declared to be severable.
- This Directive is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by any party against the State of Montana, its departments, agencies, or entities, its officers, employees, or agents, or any other person.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF MONTANA

STEVE BULLOCK
GOVERNOR



MIKE COONEY
LT. GOVERNOR

TO: Montanans; all officers and agencies of the State of Montana
FROM: Governor Steve Bullock
DATE: March 27, 2020
RE: Directive Implementing Executive Orders 2-2020 and 3-2020 and providing for relief of certain regulatory requirements

Executive Orders 2-2020 and 3-2020 declare that a state of emergency exists in Montana due to the global outbreak of COVID-19 Novel Coronavirus.

Section 10-3-104(2)(a), MCA, authorizes the Governor, during a state of emergency, to “suspend the provisions of any regulatory statute prescribing the procedures for conduct of state business or orders or rules of any state agency if the strict compliance with the provisions of any statute, order, or rule would in any way prevent, hinder, or delay necessary action in coping with the emergency or disaster.”

Under § 61-10-111, MCA, the Governor may also, under the authority of an executive order, exempt vehicles from certain size and weight limits for a specified, limited period of time during emergency circumstances, including conditions brought about by emergency circumstances for which the movement of vehicles that may exceed size and weight limits is necessary for responding to the event or occurrence.

COVID-19 has made assuring continued and reliable trucking of needed inputs and supplies for the people of Montana of vital importance. As the people of Montana pull together to protect one another by engaging in social distancing, good hygiene, and changes to our daily life, maintaining our food and medical transport pipeline requires some regulatory flexibility. Further, in this time of statewide emergency, delays to farm input deliveries may threaten farmers’ ability to get in the fields in adequate time for planting or dealing with a crop emergence. Delays in feed and hay shipments cause ranchers to suffer unnecessary animal losses. And delays in the supply chain cause unneeded stress to the ability of grocery stores, farmers, ranchers, and hospitals to provide critical services.

Further, the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) added Montana to its emergency declaration, which exempts motor carriers providing direct assistance for COVID-19 relief from Parts 390 through 399 of Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations; the exemption is in effect until the end of the emergency.

For these reasons, I have determined that relieving “hours of service” requirements for commercial motor carrier vehicles in Montana, provided for in § 61-10-154, MCA, and ARM. § 18.8.1502, is necessary to respond to the emergency. Supplies delivered by commercial vehicles are in great demand and this will help Montanans by reducing restrictions on providing emergency relief response to the nationwide coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

Additionally, the Director of the Montana Department of Transportation has requested that for the duration of the emergency, I temporarily suspend the maximum weight limits for commercial vehicles established in Title 61, Chapter 1, Part 1, MCA, to permit a 10 percent increase in weight limits for

commercial vehicles providing supplies necessary to address the emergency. I find that this is necessary to meet unusual conditions and to ensure the general welfare of the public.

In accordance with the authority vested in me under the Constitution, Article VI, Sections 4 and 13, and the laws of the State of Montana, Title 10, Chapter 3, Title 50, Chapter 1, MCA, and Title 61, Chapters 1 and 10, MCA, and other applicable provisions of the Constitution and Montana law, I hereby direct the following measures be in place in the State of Montana effective immediately:

Increased capacity for transporting food, livestock, medical supplies, farm inputs, and other items

- For the duration of the emergency, strict compliance with the “hours of service” and associated Electronic Logging Device (ELD) regulations, as provided in ARM § 18.8.1502 (incorporating by reference 49 CFR. part 395), are suspended to the extent those regulations apply to drivers of commercial motor vehicles while transporting farm inputs, food, livestock, feed/hay, and medical supplies.
 - For the duration of the emergency, the weight limits for commercial vehicles provided for in Title 61, Chapter 1, Part 1, MCA, and ARM § 18.8.431 are temporarily suspended under §§ 61-10-111 and 10-3-104, MCA, to the extent that the maximum permissible weight is increased by 10 percent for commercial vehicles providing supplies to help support response to the emergency. This Directive will suffice as the special permit needed for the increase in weight.
 - The weight increase does not apply to non-interstate load posted bridges and roads.
- Nothing in this Directive shall be construed to waive or suspend any other state or federal regulation pertaining to commercial motor carriers and commercial driver license requirements or to relieve carriers and commercial drivers from operating their commercial motor vehicles in a safe and prudent manner.
- Commercial motor vehicle carriers, while under this Directive, shall not require or allow fatigued drivers to operate a motor vehicle.
- Notwithstanding any other provision of this Directive, if a driver informs a carrier that the driver needs immediate rest, the “hours of service” requirements, enacted in § 61-10-154, MCA, and implementing regulations, ARM. § 18.8.1502, must be followed.
- The Montana Department of Transportation is directed to:
 - Continue and support the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration “hour of service waiver.”
 - Waive temporary registration and temporary fuel permits for vehicle providing supplies to help support response to the emergency.
 - Honor other jurisdictions’ requests to suspend enforcement of the licensing and registration requirements for the International Fuel Tax Agreement (IFTA) and the International Registration Plan (IRP) for vehicle providing supplies to help support response to the emergency.
 - Request other jurisdictions temporarily suspend enforcement on Montana based carriers licensing and registration requirements for the International Fuel Tax Agreement (IFTA) and the International Registration Plan (IRP) for vehicles providing supplies to help support the emergency.

Authorities: Sections 10-3-104, -103, -302, and -305, MCA; §§ 61-10-111 and -154, MCA; Executive Orders 2-2020 and 3-2020; Montana Constitution, Art. VI, Sections 4 and 13; and all other applicable provisions of state and federal law.

Limitations

- This Directive is effective immediately and expires at the end of the declared state of emergency in Executive Orders 2-2020 and 3-2020.
- This Directive shall be implemented consistent with applicable law and subject to the availability of appropriations.
- Nothing in this Directive shall be construed to limit, modify, or otherwise affect the authority granted by law to the Governor, any department, agency, political subdivision, officer, agent, or employee of the State of Montana, or any local or municipal government except as expressly provided in this Directive or other Directives now in effect implementing Executive Orders 2-2020 and 3-2020.
- If any provision of this Directive or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, this invalidity does not affect any other provision or application of this Directive, which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application. To achieve this purpose, the provisions of this Directive are declared to be severable.
- This Directive is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by any party against the State of Montana, its departments, agencies, or entities, its officers, employees, or agents, or any other person.



Billings Police Department

PRESS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: 03/27/2020

CASE NUMBER: N/A

TYPE OF INCIDENT: Governors Stay at Home Order

DATE & TIME: N/A

LOCATION: N/A

This message is endorsed by the Billings Police Department, Yellowstone County Sheriff's Office, and Laurel Police Department.

In response to Governor Bullocks Stay at Home Public Health Order, Law Enforcement wants to communicate with the public what our involvement looks like while the order is in place.

The order issued by the Governor is an enforceable public health order under state statutes. The order must be enforced by the County Attorney or Public Health Officials. Local Law Enforcement fully stands behind and believes in the order issued by the Governor to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 through our community.

All complaints of Stay at Home Order violations should be directed to the Public Health line at **651-6415**. All complaints will be taken. Callers should not expect a call back unless there are additional questions.

We have been absolutely impressed with the actions of our community so far during this and we have every reason to believe the community will continue to do so. Law Enforcement is not approaching this order with an enforcement mindset. This is a public health matter and we are all in as good community stewards.

We highly encourage everyone in the community to abide by the order. Officers will continue to patrol and respond to normal calls for service. We have directed our Officers to not ignore blatant violations of the order and make safe contact with violators to educate them and encourage compliance. Blatant, egregious, and repeat violations will be documented and referred to the County Attorney and Public Health Officials.

As fear, anxiety, and uncertainty heightens, Law Enforcement wants to re-assure the community that we remain on duty just as any other day. We have directed officers to focus their pro-active enforcement efforts with patrolling vulnerable targets for crimes of opportunity such as vacated schools, business, and such. We will increase patrols for visibility in essential areas that remain open such as supermarkets and other essential areas.

We too are members of this community and want you to know we are here in this with you. By sticking together as a team we are guaranteed to stay MONTANA STRONG.

In this busy and hectic world, we believe we all can make the best of this. Please use this Stay at Home Order as positive time to spend quality time with loved ones, play games, read books, exercise, be well and take care of each other. We ask that you make the best of this time and enjoy.

WE HAVE THE WATCH.

Lieutenant Brandon Wooley
Billings Police Department
406-657-8375
wooleyb@ci.billings.mt.us



MEDIA RELEASE

MARCH 27, 2020

MET TRANSIT RESPONDS TO COVID-19 WITH FARE-FREE BUS SERVICE UNTIL APRIL 30, 2020.

In response to the significant economic and social issues resulting from the COVID-19 health crisis, the City of Billings MET Transit system will be offering fare-free bus service through April 30, 2020. The City of Billings realizes transit is an essential service to the community, especially for members who may have limited transportation options and access to services. The City also realizes a number of members in the community have experienced significant impacts to their financial wellbeing. Operating fare-free service will not only provide a financial relief to passengers, but will also support MET Transit's efforts to operate in accordance with social distancing recommendations. This is accomplished by removing the requirement for passengers and transit operators to exchange fare media and payment, as well as requiring passengers to move within the bus to deposit fares. MET will continue the current procedure of loading passengers through the rear door on compatible vehicles.

MET Transit intends to continue providing access to essential services including healthcare, groceries, pharmacies, and to those in the community still needing to travel to their workplace. However, MET does ask all passengers to travel only for essential trips as this will assist all riders in maintaining adequate social distancing. If you have questions regarding fares or services, please contact the MET at 406-657-8218.



CITY OF BILLINGS

OFFICE OF CITY ADMINISTRATOR

**P.O. BOX 1178
BILLINGS, MONTANA 59103
(406) 657-8433
FAX (406) 657-8390**



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Billings, MT – Effective immediately all City playgrounds, tennis, volley, and basketball courts have been closed due to the possibility of transmission of COVID-19 until further notice. A recent study conducted by the National Institute of Health, published in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, found that the COVID-19 virus may live on hard surfaces for up to three days. City parks, spaces, and trails are open for public use.

Please contact Gavin Woltjer, woltjerg@billingsmt.gov, with any questions.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

3/31/2020

To prohibit the transmission of COVID-19, the City of Billings has modified some parking services:

Effective April 1, Park 2 and Park 3 attendant booths will not be staffed. Until further notice, hourly parking is not available in these areas. Monthly parking will continue to operate as usual. Please call 657-8412 if you have questions about public parking in downtown.

These modifications are to ensure best practices of social distancing for the public and City staff. During these unprecedented times, the City appreciates your patience as we continue to develop the best service models. The safety and well-being of our community, customers, and staff is a top priority. Please visit coronavirus-response-billings.hub.arcgis.com/ website for more information.

Please contact Gavin Woltjer, woltjerg@billingsmt.gov, with any questions.

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*Billings Pride:
City-wide*



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

4/2/2020

To prohibit the transmission of COVID-19, the City of Billings has modified utility payments:

Effective immediately, the Public Works department requests that utility payments be made either online, phone, or by using a secured drop-box located at either 2251 Belknap Ave. or 3rd Ave. N. between 27th and 28th streets. For the safety of the public and City staff, the lobby at the Utilities Service Center is closed to the public until further notice. If you have been financially affected during this crisis, please call (406) 657-8315 for payment plans and/or options. Shutoffs for nonpayment of utility services discontinued on March 17.

These modifications are to ensure best practices of social distancing for the public and City staff. During these unprecedented times, the City appreciates your patience as we continue to develop the best service models. The safety and well-being of our community, customers, and staff is a top priority. Please visit coronavirus-response-billings.hub.arcgis.com/ website for more information.

Please contact Gavin Woltjer, woltjerg@billingsmt.gov, with any questions.

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*Billings Pride:
City-wide*

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF MONTANA

STEVE BULLOCK
GOVERNOR



MIKE COONEY
LT. GOVERNOR

TO: Montanans; all officers and agencies of the State of Montana
FROM: Governor Steve Bullock
DATE: March 26, 2020
RE: Directive Implementing Executive Orders 2-2020 and 3-2020 providing measures to stay at home and designating certain essential functions

Executive Orders 2-2020 and 3-2020 declare that a state of emergency exists in Montana due to the global outbreak of COVID-19 Novel Coronavirus.

Section 10-3-104(2)(a), MCA, authorizes the Governor, during a state of emergency, to “suspend the provisions of any regulatory statute prescribing the procedures for conduct of state business or orders or rules of any state agency if the strict compliance with the provisions of any statute, order, or rule would in any way prevent, hinder, or delay necessary action in coping with the emergency or disaster.” Further, it authorizes the Governor to “control ingress and egress to and from an incident or emergency or disaster area, the movement of persons within the area, and the occupancy of premises within the area.” Section 10-3-104(2)(c), MCA. Montana’s public health laws also authorize the Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS or Department), acting under the Governor’s direction, to “issue written orders for correction” of “conditions of public health importance,” to “prevent and mitigate conditions of public health importance” through measures including “isolation and quarantine” and “abatement of public health nuisances.” Section 50-1-202, MCA. The Department, under the Governor’s direction, may also take action to correct public health deficiencies in “buildings or facilities where people congregate.” Section 50-1-203, MCA. The Department, under the Governor’s direction, is also authorized to impose quarantine and isolation measures to protect public health. Section 50-1-204, MCA. Montana law provides that these authorities will be utilized to respond to an “outbreak of disease,” § 10-3-103(4), MCA, and to “limit the transmission of the communicable disease.” *See, e.g.*, § 50-1-101(6), MCA.

COVID-19 is a contagion that most frequently spreads person to person. The virus may live on surfaces and remain in the air after someone coughs or sneezes for an unknown period of time, creating a range of opportunities for exposure. Exposure can also happen when a person touches a surface or object that has the live virus on it and then touches one’s face. Montana currently faces an emergency statewide, with infections or the imminent threat of infections present across the state. Accordingly, for the preservation of public health and safety throughout the entire State of Montana, to protect those most at-risk, and to avoid overwhelming our health care delivery system, I have determined that additional measures consistent with public health guidance are necessary to slow and stop the spread of COVID-19.

To curtail the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic in Montana, and to protect the health and economic wellbeing of all Montanans, it is necessary immediately to implement measures to ensure social distancing to prevent the spread of disease. Such an approach will reduce the overall number of infections in the state and preserve increasingly scarce health care resources. In consultation with public health experts, health care providers, and emergency management professionals, I have determined that to protect public health and human safety, it is essential to the health, safety, and

welfare of the State of Montana during the ongoing state of emergency that, to the maximum extent possible, individuals stay at home or at their place of residence.

Pandemics are not without precedent in Montana. Neither are the measures necessary to stop the spread of communicable disease and respond to the emergency. During the Spanish Influenza outbreak of 1918, public health authorities closed schools and other public places. These measures can save lives across the United States now. Montana must act now, before its own rate of infection mirrors that of other states. While the times ahead will not be easy, Montanans have always pulled together in times of crisis. This crisis is no different, and will require all Montanans, collectively, to do their individual part to slow the growth of COVID-19 infections and protect their friends, family, and neighbors from this dangerous infection.

In accordance with the authority vested in me under the Constitution, Article VI, Sections 4 and 13, and the laws of the State of Montana, Title 10, Chapter 3 and Title 50, Chapter 1, MCA, and other applicable provisions of the Constitution and Montana Law, I hereby direct the following measures be in place in the State of Montana effective statewide at 12:01 a.m. on March 28, 2020, through April 10, 2020:

I. Stay at Home; Social Distancing Requirements; and Essential Businesses and Operations

- **1. Stay at home or place of residence.** With exceptions as outlined below, all individuals currently living within the State of Montana are directed to stay at home or at their place of residence to the greatest extent possible, except as allowed in this Directive. As used in this Directive, homes or residences include hotels, motels, shared rental units, shelters, and similar facilities.

Non-essential social and recreational gatherings of individuals outside of a home or place of residence are prohibited, regardless of size, if a distance of at least six feet between individuals cannot be maintained.

All persons may leave their homes or place of residence only for Essential Activities or to operate Essential Businesses and Operations, all as defined below.

Individuals whose residences are unsafe or become unsafe, such as victims of domestic violence, are permitted and urged to leave their home and stay at a safe alternative location.

- **2. Non-essential business and operations to cease.** All businesses and operations in the State, except Essential Businesses and Operations as defined below, are required to cease all activities within the State except Minimum Basic Operations, as defined below. Businesses may also continue operations consisting exclusively of employees or contractors performing activities at their own residences (i.e., working from home).

To the greatest extent feasible, Essential Businesses and Operations shall comply with Social Distancing Requirements as defined in this Directive, including by maintaining six-foot social distancing for both employees and members of the public at all times, including, but not limited to, when any customers are standing in line. Essential Businesses and Operation should also employ, where feasible, telework or other remote working opportunities to limit disease spread.

- **3. Prohibited activities.** All public and private gatherings of any number of people occurring outside a household or living unit are prohibited, except for the limited purposes permitted by this Directive.

The March 24, 2020 Directive that closes certain businesses to ingress, egress, and occupancy by the public, while expanding delivery and to-go options, remains in effect. However, the portions of that order requiring social distancing (Section 1) and social distancing guidelines for retail businesses (Section 3) are superseded by the requirements in this Directive.

- **4. Prohibited and permitted travel.** All travel should be limited to Essential Travel and travel for Essential Activities. People riding on public transit must comply with social distancing to the greatest extent feasible. When individuals need to leave their homes or residences, they should at all times maintain social distancing of at least six feet from any person who is not a member of their immediate household, to the greatest extent possible.
- **5. Leaving your home for essential activities is permitted.** For purposes of this Directive, individuals may leave their home or residence only to perform any of the following Essential Activities and must ensure a distance of six feet from others not in their household:

For health and safety. To engage in activities or perform tasks essential to their health and safety, or to the health and safety of their family or household members (including, but not limited to, pets), such as, by way of example only and without limitation, seeking emergency services, obtaining medical supplies or medication, or visiting a health care professional.

For necessary supplies and services. To obtain necessary services or supplies for themselves and their family or household members, or to deliver those services or supplies to others, such as, by way of example only and without limitation, groceries and food, household consumer products, supplies they need to work from home, and products necessary to maintain the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of residences.

For outdoor activity. To engage in outdoor activity, provided that individuals comply with social distancing, as defined below, such as, by way of example and without limitation, walking, hiking, running, or biking. Individuals may go to public parks and open outdoor recreation areas, including public lands in Montana provided they remain open to recreation. Montanans are discouraged from outdoor recreation activities that pose enhanced risks of injury or could otherwise stress the ability of local first responders to address the COVID-19 emergency (*e.g.*, backcountry skiing in a manner inconsistent with avalanche recommendations or in closed terrain).

For certain types of work. To perform work providing essential products and services at Essential Businesses or Operations or to otherwise carry out activities specifically permitted in this Directive, including Minimum Basic Operations.

To take care of others. To care for a family member, friend, or pet in another household, and to transport family members, friends, or pets as allowed by this Directive.

- **6. Health Care and Public Health Operations.** For purposes of this Directive, individuals may leave their residence to work for or obtain services through Health Care and Public Health Operations.

Health Care and Public Health Operations includes, but is not limited to: hospitals; clinics; dental offices; pharmacies; public health entities, including those that compile, model, analyze and communicate public health information; pharmaceutical, pharmacy, medical device and equipment, and biotechnology companies (including operations, research and development, manufacture, and supply chain); organizations collecting blood, platelets, plasma, and other necessary materials; licensed medical cannabis dispensaries and licensed cannabis cultivation centers; reproductive health care providers; eye care centers, including those that sell glasses and contact lenses; home Health Care services providers; mental health and substance use providers; other Health Care facilities and suppliers and providers of any related and/or ancillary Health Care services; and entities that transport and dispose of medical materials and remains.

Specifically included in Health Care and Public Health Operations are manufacturers, technicians, logistics, and warehouse operators and distributors of medical equipment, personal protective equipment (PPE), medical gases, pharmaceuticals, blood and blood products, vaccines, testing materials, laboratory supplies, cleaning, sanitizing, disinfecting or sterilization supplies, and tissue and paper towel products.

Health Care and Public Health Operations also includes veterinary care and all Health Care services provided to animals.

Health Care and Public Health Operations shall be construed broadly to avoid any impacts to the delivery of Health Care, broadly defined. Health Care and Public Health Operations does not include fitness and exercise gyms, spas, salons, barber shops, tattoo parlors, and similar facilities.

- **7. Human Services Operations.** For purposes of this Directive, individuals may leave their residence to work for or obtain services at any Human Services Operations, including any provider funded by DPHHS, or Medicaid, that is providing services to the public and including state-operated, institutional, or community-based settings providing human services to the public.

Human Services Operations includes, but is not limited to: long-term care facilities; residential settings and shelters for adults, seniors, children, and/or people with developmental disabilities, intellectual disabilities, substance use disorders, and/or mental illness; transitional facilities; home-based settings to provide services to individuals with physical, intellectual, and/or developmental disabilities, seniors, adults, and children; field offices that provide and help to determine eligibility for basic needs including food, cash assistance, medical coverage, child care, vocational services, rehabilitation services; developmental centers; adoption agencies; businesses that provide food, shelter, and social services, and other necessities of life for economically disadvantaged individuals, individuals with physical, intellectual, and/or developmental disabilities, or otherwise needy individuals.

Human Services Operations shall be construed broadly to avoid any impacts to the delivery of human services, broadly defined.

- **8. Essential Infrastructure.** For purposes of this Directive, individuals may leave their residence to provide any services or perform any work necessary to offer, provision, operate, maintain and repair Essential Infrastructure. Essential Infrastructure includes, but is not limited to: food production, distribution, storage, and sale; construction (including, but not limited to, construction required in response to this public health emergency, hospital construction, construction of long-term care facilities, public works construction, and housing construction); building management and maintenance; airport operations; aircraft fueling services; operation and maintenance of utilities, including water, sewer, and gas; electrical (including power generation, distribution, and production of raw materials); distribution centers; oil and biofuel refining; roads, highways, railroads, and public transportation; cybersecurity operations; flood control; operation of dams, locks, ditches, canals, diversions, and levies; solid waste and recycling collection and removal; and internet, video, and telecommunications systems (including the provision of essential global, national, and local infrastructure for computing services, business infrastructure, communications, and web-based services).

Essential Infrastructure shall be construed broadly to avoid any impacts to essential infrastructure, broadly defined.

- **9. Governmental Functions.** All first responders, emergency management personnel, emergency dispatchers, court personnel, law enforcement and corrections personnel, hazardous materials responders, child protection and child welfare personnel, fire protection personnel, wildland fire fighters, housing and shelter personnel, military, government employees involved in training the above functions, and other government employees are categorically exempt from this Directive. For purposes of this Directive, state government employees are categorically exempt from this Directive. Local governments are permitted to designate which functions and employees are essential and exempt for the purposes of this Directive, apart from those positions and functions named above.

This Directive does not apply to the United States government. Nothing in this Directive shall prohibit any individual from performing or accessing Essential Governmental Functions.

Nothing in this Directive shall be interpreted or applied in a way that interferes with or supersedes tribal sovereignty.

- **10. Businesses covered by this Directive.** For the purposes of this Directive, covered businesses include any for-profit, non-profit, or educational entities, regardless of the nature of the service, the function it performs, or its corporate or entity structure.
- **11. Essential Businesses and Operations.** For the purposes of this Directive, Essential Businesses and Operations means Health Care and Public Health Operations, Human Services Operations, Essential Governmental Functions, and Essential Infrastructure, and the following:¹

¹ On March 19, 2020, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency, issued a *Memorandum on Identification of Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers During COVID-19 Response*, available at: <https://www.cisa.gov/publication/guidance-essential-critical-infrastructure-workforce>. The definition of Essential Businesses and Operations in this Order is meant to encompass the workers identified in that Memorandum.

- a. **Stores that sell groceries and medicine.** Grocery stores, pharmacies, farm and produce stands, supermarkets, convenience stores, and other establishments engaged in the retail sale of groceries, canned food, dry goods, frozen foods, fresh fruits and vegetables, pet supplies, fresh meats, fish, and poultry, alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages, and any other household consumer products (such as cleaning and personal care products). This includes stores that sell groceries, medicine, including medication not requiring a medical prescription, and also that sell other non-grocery products, and products necessary to maintaining the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of residences and Essential Businesses and Operations;
- b. **Food and beverage production and agriculture.** Food and beverage manufacturing, production, processing, and cultivation, including farming, livestock, fishing, baking, and other production agriculture, including cultivation, marketing, production, and wholesale or retail distribution of animals and goods for consumption; licensed medical cannabis dispensaries and licensed cannabis cultivation centers; and businesses that provide food, shelter, and other necessities of life for animals, including veterinary and animal health services, animal shelters, rescues, shelters, kennels, and adoption facilities; businesses that provide equipment, transportation, seed, feed, fertilizer, or other products or services critical to food and livestock production;
- c. **Organizations that provide charitable and social services.** Businesses and religious and secular nonprofit organizations, including food banks, when providing food, shelter, and social services, and other necessities of life for economically disadvantaged or otherwise needy individuals, individuals who need assistance as a result of this emergency, and people with disabilities;
- d. **Media.** Newspapers, television, radio, and other media services;
- e. **Gas stations and businesses needed for transportation.** Gas stations and auto supply, auto repair, and related facilities and bicycle shops and related facilities;
- f. **Financial and real estate services and institutions.** Banks, consumer lenders, including but not limited, to pawnbrokers, accountants, consumer installment lenders and sales finance lenders, credit unions, appraisers, realtors or others providing real estate services, title companies, financial markets, trading and futures exchanges, affiliates of financial institutions, entities that issue bonds, related financial institutions, and institutions selling financial products;
- g. **Hardware and supply stores.** Hardware stores and businesses that sell electrical, plumbing, and heating material;
- h. **Critical trades.** Building and Construction Tradesmen and Tradeswomen, and other trades including but not limited to plumbers, electricians, exterminators, cleaning and janitorial staff for commercial and governmental properties, security staff, operating engineers, HVAC, painting, moving and relocation services, and other service providers who provide services that are necessary to maintaining the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of residences, Essential Activities, and Essential Businesses and Operations;
- i. **Mail, post, shipping, logistics, delivery, and pick-up services.** Post offices and other businesses that provide shipping and delivery services, and businesses that ship or deliver groceries, food, alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages, goods or services to end users or through commercial channels;
- j. **Educational institutions.** Educational institutions—including public and private pre-K-12 schools, colleges, and universities—for purposes of facilitating remote learning, performing critical research, or performing other essential functions

consistent with prior Directives on school closures and the continued provision of certain services, provided that social distancing of six-feet per person is maintained to the greatest extent possible. This Directive is consistent with and does not amend or supersede the March 24, 2020 Directive closing non-residential public schools through April 10, 2020;

- k. **Laundry services.** Laundromats, dry cleaners, industrial laundry services, and laundry service providers;
- l. **Restaurants for consumption off-premises.** Restaurants and other facilities that prepare and serve food, but only for consumption off-premises, through such means as in-house delivery, third-party delivery, drive-through, curbside pick-up, and carry-out. Schools and other entities that typically provide food services to students or members of the public may continue to do so under this Directive on the condition that the food is provided to students or members of the public on a pick-up and takeaway basis only. Schools and other entities that provide food services under this exemption shall not permit the food to be eaten at the site where it is provided, or at any other gathering site due to the virus's propensity to physically impact surfaces and personal property.

This exception is to be interpreted consistent with the restrictions on on-premises dining and beverage businesses, as well as the expanded options for delivery and take out, provided in the March 24, 2020 Directive, Section 2.;

- m. **Supplies to work from home.** Businesses that sell, manufacture, or supply products needed for people to work from home;
- n. **Supplies for Essential Businesses and Operations.** Businesses that sell, manufacture, or supply other Essential Businesses and Operations with the support or materials necessary to operate, including computers, audio and video electronics, household appliances; IT and telecommunication equipment; hardware, paint, flat glass; electrical, plumbing and heating material; sanitary equipment; personal hygiene products; food, food additives, ingredients and components; medical and orthopedic equipment; optics and photography equipment; diagnostics, food and beverages, chemicals, soaps and detergent; and firearm and ammunition suppliers and retailers for purposes of safety and security;
- o. **Transportation.** Airlines, taxis, transportation network providers (such as Uber and Lyft), vehicle rental services, paratransit, and other private, public, and commercial transportation and logistics providers necessary for Essential Activities and other purposes expressly authorized in this Directive;
- p. **Home-based care and services.** Home-based care for adults, seniors, children, and/or people with developmental disabilities, intellectual disabilities, substance use disorders, and/or mental illness, including caregivers such as nannies who may travel to the child's home to provide care, and other in-home services including meal delivery;
- q. **Residential facilities and shelters.** Residential facilities and shelters for adults, seniors, children, and/or people with developmental disabilities, intellectual disabilities, substance use disorders, and/or mental illness;
- r. **Professional services.** Professional services, such as legal services, accounting services, insurance services, information technology services, real estate services (including appraisal and title services);

- s. **Manufacture, distribution, and supply chain for critical products and industries.** Manufacturing companies, distributors, and supply chain companies producing and supplying essential products and services in and for industries such as pharmaceutical, technology, biotechnology, Health Care, chemicals and sanitization, waste pickup and disposal, agriculture, food and beverage, transportation, energy, steel and steel products, petroleum and fuel, forest products, mining, construction, national defense, communications, as well as products used by other Essential Businesses and Operations.
 - t. **Critical labor union functions.** Labor union essential activities including the administration of health and welfare funds and personnel checking on the wellbeing and safety of members providing services in Essential Businesses and Operations – provided that these checks should be done by telephone or remotely where possible.
 - u. **Hotels and motels.** Hotels and motels, to the extent used for lodging and delivery or carry-out food services.
 - v. **Funeral services.** Funeral, mortuary, cremation, burial, cemetery, and related services.
- **12. Social Distancing Requirements for Essential Businesses and Operations.** Essential Businesses and Operations and businesses engaged in Minimum Basic Operations must take proactive measures to ensure compliance with Social Distancing Requirements, including where possible:
 - a. **Designate six-foot distances.** Designating with signage, tape, or by other means six-foot spacing for employees and customers in line to maintain appropriate distance;
 - b. **Hand sanitizer and sanitizing products.** Having hand sanitizer and sanitizing products readily available for employees and customers;
 - c. **Separate operating hours for vulnerable populations.** Implementing separate operating hours for elderly and vulnerable customers; and
 - d. **Online and remote access.** Posting online whether a facility is open and how best to reach the facility and continue services by phone or remotely.
- **13. Minimum Basic Operations.** For the purposes of this Directive, Minimum Basic Operations include the following, provided that employees comply with Social Distancing Requirements, to the extent possible, while carrying out such operations:
 - a. The minimum necessary activities to maintain the value of the business’s inventory, preserve the condition of the business’s physical plant and equipment, ensure security, process payroll and employee benefits, or for related functions.
 - b. The minimum necessary activities to facilitate employees of the business being able to continue to work remotely from their residences.
- **14. Essential Travel.** For the purposes of this Directive, Essential Travel includes travel for any of the following purposes:
 - a. Any travel related to the provision of or access to Essential Activities, Essential Businesses and Operations, or Minimum Basic Operations.
 - b. Travel to care for elderly, minors, dependents, persons with disabilities, or other vulnerable persons.

- c. Travel to or from educational institutions for purposes of receiving materials for distance learning, for receiving meals, and any other related services.
 - d. Travel to return to a place of residence from outside the jurisdiction.
 - e. Travel required by law enforcement or court order, including to transport children pursuant to a custody agreement.
 - f. Travel required for non-residents to return to their place of residence outside the State. Individuals are strongly encouraged to verify that their transportation out of the State remains available and functional prior to commencing such travel.
- **15. Intent of this Directive.** The intent of this Directive is to ensure that the maximum number of people self-isolate in their places of residence to the maximum extent feasible, while enabling essential services to continue, to slow the spread of COVID-19 to the greatest extent possible. These measures are designed to end the epidemic as early as possible, and to protect the well-being of Montanans by returning to the course of business and everyday life as soon as is practicable and safe. When people need to leave their places of residence, whether to perform Essential Activities, or to otherwise facilitate authorized activities necessary for continuity of social and commercial life, they should at all times and as much as reasonably possible comply with Social Distancing Requirements. All provisions of this Directive should be interpreted to effectuate this intent.

II. Directive Is Public Health Order and Enforceable By County Attorney

- This Directive, along with any prior Directive that implements and references the public health authorities of the Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) provided in Title 50, constitutes a “public health . . . order[]” within the meaning of § 50-1-103(2), MCA, and is enforceable by the Attorney General, DPHHS, a county attorney, or other local authorities under the direction of a county attorney.

III. Local Public Health Agencies to Assist in Administration of this Public Health Order

- Local public health agencies are directed to assist in the administration of this Directive, consistent with § 50-1-202(2)(a), MCA.

IV. Less-Restrictive Local Ordinances Preempted

- This Directive is in effect statewide in Montana. In the interest of uniformity of laws and to prevent the spread of disease, all inconsistent emergency county health ordinances are preempted by this Directive, but only to the extent they are less restrictive. Counties may adopt more restrictive ordinances.

Authorities: Section 10-3-104, MCA; §§ 50-1-103, -202, -203, and -204, MCA; Executive Orders 2-2020 and 3-2020; Montana Constitution, Art. VI, Sections 4 and 13; §§ 10-3-103, -302, and -305, MCA; and all other applicable provisions of state and federal law.

Limitations

- This Directive is effective at 12:01 a.m. on March 28, 2020 through April 10, 2020.
- This Directive shall be implemented consistent with applicable law and subject to the availability of appropriations.
- If any provision of this Directive or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, this invalidity does not affect any other provision or application of this Directive, which can be given effect without the invalid provision or

application. To achieve this purpose, the provisions of this Directive are declared to be severable.

- This Directive is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by any party against the State of Montana, its departments, agencies, or entities, its officers, employees, or agents, or any other person.

PRESS RELEASE:

From: Yellowstone County Unified Incident Management Team

Today March 30th, 2020 the Department of Emergency Services (DES) director KC Williams suspended all open burning in Yellowstone County until Saturday April 4th at 8AM.

This suspension will continue and allow open burning only on weekends until further notice. Burning will be allowed during daylight hours only and does require a Yellowstone County burn permit. A permit may be obtained on line at county.mt.yellowstone.gov

WE ask that if people do not need to burn during this difficult time, by all means please hold off until the Covid19 crisis is over.

We thank our citizens for their cooperation and their patience during this difficult period.

John Staley; Chief Public Information Officer (PIO) of the Joint Information Center (JIC)

JIC information requests can be processed by contacting jstaley@lockwoodfire.com



CITY OF BILLINGS

OFFICE OF *CITY ADMINISTRATOR*

*P.O. BOX 1178
BILLINGS, MONTANA 59103
(406) 657-8433
FAX (406) 657-8390*



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 30, 2020

To prohibit the transmission of COVID-19, the City of Billings has modified some services and hours of operation.

Effective immediately:

- City Hall operates Tuesday and Wednesday: 7am – noon; vulnerable populations are asked to come from 7am-9am.
- Police Department Front Window services offered Tuesday and Wednesday: 7am – noon.
- All fire stations and City/County 9-1-1 Center remain closed to the public.
- Municipal Courts will continue to operate as scheduled.
- Community Development offices remain closed to the public.

These modifications are to ensure best practices of social distancing. During these unprecedented times, the City appreciates your patience as we continue to develop the best service models. The safety and well-being of our community, customers, and staff is a top priority. Please visit coronavirus-response-billings.hub.arcgis.com/ website for more information.

Please contact Gavin Woltjer, woltjerg@billingsmt.gov, with any questions.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 30, 2020

To prohibit the transmission of COVID-19, the City of Billings has modified some services and hours of operation.

The City of Billings Municipal Court will remain open and will continue to function in an orderly manner. In response to the ever-changing dynamics related to COVID-19 virus, Judge Sheila Kolar has implemented numerous actions to ensure the safety of the City of Billings residents. For more information, please visit: <https://ci.billings.mt.us/115/Municipal-Court>.

These modifications are to ensure best practices of social distancing. During these unprecedented times, the City appreciates your patience as we continue to develop the best service models. The safety and well-being of our community, customers, and staff is a top priority. Please visit coronavirus-response-billings.hub.arcgis.com/ website for more information.

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*Billings Pride:
City-wide*