

Billings City Administrator Weekly Report

May 1, 2020

1. **Monday's COVID-19 Update** - Monday's update will include Chief Health Official John Felton and Dave Nordel, Community Care Branch leader.

Organized Sports – the following information was communicated yesterday with each of the organized sports groups the City interacts with: Under the direction of John Felton, Yellowstone County Health Officer, the Billings Parks and Recreation Department has been asked to disseminate the process for how youth sports leagues and organizations can begin utilizing City parks for play under the Governor's Phase 1 of "Reopening the Big Sky." The following statement from John Felton outlines the process how each league or organization will proceed.

"In the interest of the protecting the public's health, during the current COVID-19 pandemic, access to use of City parks by organized youth sports leagues and teams will only be granted after the team or league presents evidence of the Yellowstone County Health Officer's approval of plans addressing factors as required by the Health Officer (e.g., sanitation protocols, processes to assure appropriated physical distancing, etc.)"

In essence, the process involves the following 3 steps:

1. Each league or organization will need to develop their guidelines and plan for Phase 1.
2. Each league or organization will need to submit their guidelines and plan for approval to the Yellowstone County Health Department.
3. A copy of your Yellowstone County Health Department approved plan must be submitted to Kory Thomson, thomsonk@billingsmt.gov Recreation Superintendent, before any Park Use Permits will be issued or reinstated.

For questions and to submit your plan, please contact John Felton at 651-6474 or email john.fel@riverstonehealth.org.

Curbside Library Services – Curbside services begins Monday at 11:00am along the west side of the library on N 29th Street.

90 Bed Mobile Medical Facility – Yesterday afternoon I toured the mobile medical facility being set up at the MetraPark Expo Center. The MT National Guard is building the temporary facility for low-acute, non-COVID19 patients. The temporary facility is owned by the state of MT and is a part of Montana's phased reopening. This facility will be available for not only COVID19 but any future disaster within our region.

COVID-19 Information:

- Billings Public Library Offering Curbside Pickup Service
- FAQ Phase 1 Reopen MT
- Framework to Ramp Up Montana's Testing Capacity

- Mayor Cole Statement of Condolence
- MET Media Release Fare Free May 2020
- Parking Enforcement and Parking Garages

2. **Fiscal Year 2021 Proposed Budget** – The FY21 Budget Proposal can be found online at <https://ci.billings.mt.us/475/Budgets-Financial-Reports> under the title “FY2021 Proposed Budget”. The budget document is presented in two formats, outlined within the table of contents. Each section of the table of contents can be clicked upon to go directly to that section of the budget. The first section of the budget "Budget Highlights by Fund" can be used to view specific city funds. This is in the same format as years past. The second section titled "Department Budget Overview" contains the same financial information included in the funds, but summarized by City Department. This is done because one department may oversee a variety of funds. These sections should be referenced for an overview of the department as a whole and should provide a highlight of the expenditures within that department.
3. **MT Infrastructure Coalition (MIC)** – Tuesday afternoon I participated in the MIC meeting. Billings is a full voting member of the MT Infrastructure Coalition. The coalition has done excellent research on MT infrastructure condition and funding sources. They have also conducted polls in partnership with several other statewide business partners to understand what Montanans think about how we fund critical infrastructure. The Coalition will be heavily involved in the 2021 legislature.

Have a wonderful weekend!

Billings Public Library
510 North Broadway
Billings MT 59101
406-657-8258



May 1, 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

BILLINGS PUBLIC LIBRARY OFFERING CURBSIDE PICKUP SERVICE

Starting May 4, the Billings Public Library will offer curbside pickup of items that have previously been on hold. While the library remains closed to public access, patrons who requested items before the COVID-19 stay at home orders will now be able to pick them up.

Patrons should wait for a notification from the library and then pick up their items curbside on the west side of the Library building on North 29th Street. This interim curbside service will be available starting May 4, Monday-Friday from 11 am. – 4 p.m. until further notice. Items will be sanitized prior to checkout.

For those who have library items checked out, they can be returned curbside when picking up holds.


All others can return items to the drive-up book drop according to the following schedule:

May 4 – May 8 – Patrons with last names beginning with A-F
May 11-May 15 – Patrons with last names beginning with G-L
May 18-May 22 – Patrons with last names beginning with M-R
May 25-May 29 – Patrons with last names beginning with S-Z

Patrons may begin placing holds on May 11 with a 10-item limit. The Library will notify patrons when holds are ready for pick up curbside on North 29th Street. No interlibrary loan requests will be taken during this interim schedule.

For questions, please call the Library at 657-8292.

###END###



STATE OF MONTANA CORONAVIRUS PHASE ONE REOPENING FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

State Emergency Operations Center
Joint Information Center (JIC)

Updated:
April 28, 2020 @ 5:40 PM

Phase One Reopening FAQs

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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**
- Tourism Informational Hotline: **1-800-847-4868**
- Emergency Housing Assistance Program: COVID19HousingAssist@mt.gov
 - Phone: 406.841.2840, TDD: 406.841.2702, Toll Free: 800.761.6264
- 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 #StayHomeMontana #406Feet

General Questions: Phase One

Before reviewing this document, please first read the actual [Phased Reopening Directive](#). Most questions can most likely be answered by reading the entire Directive. This document may be updated throughout the reopening.

What is the intent of the Directive?

- Provides for the phased reopening of Montana.
- Provides local school boards the flexibility to make decisions about the remainder of the academic year.

How was the directive created?

- Developed based on scientific evidence and data, and in consultation with public health experts, healthcare providers, business leaders, and emergency management professionals. This phased approach is based on up-to-date data and statewide preparedness. It mitigates the risk of resurgence. It protects the most vulnerable. It can be implemented on a statewide, tribal, or county basis. And it contains the ability to adjust phases based on local or regional conditions.
- Places emphasis on protecting those in Montana most vulnerable to complications from COVID-19 by continuing to take measures seriously, we protect our family, friends, and neighbors as Montana begins to emerge from its initial encounter with COVID-19.

When does Phase one begin?

- Phase one begins a various times depending upon your industry, county, and local jurisdictions as they may choose to implement more stringent measures. Be sure to check with your local City/County Health Department for restrictions or additional requirements.
- Generally speaking, here's a broad overview of the Phase one start dates:

Phase One Start Date	
April 26	Places Of Worship
April 27	Main Street and Retail Businesses Outdoor Recreation Organized Youth Activities
May 4	Restaurants, Bars, Breweries, Distilleries, And Casinos
May 7	School Open/Closure Set by Local Officials

Do you have the authority to direct the phase one reopening?

- 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.

How will this phase one 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 directive 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.
- We encourage anyone who may have a concern about a potential violation of any of the Governor's directives to work with their local agencies to reach a resolution.

What are the Social Distancing Requirements?

- Businesses and 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.

Individual Guidance: Phase One

I do not feel well, do I have to go to work or school?

- No. People who feel sick should stay home and contact their health care provider for guidance. If you are experiencing the symptoms of COVID-19, you must follow your local health department guidance on isolation and quarantine.

I am in the high-risk group, should I resume normal activities?

- No, all vulnerable or high-risk individuals should continue to follow the stay at home guidance.
- This also applies to those who are living with a high-risk individual. Household members should be aware that by returning to work or other environments where social distancing is not practiced, they could carry the virus back home. Household members who must return to work or other environments should consider isolating themselves from the high-risk individuals.

Do I need to be wearing a mask when I leave the house?

- Non-medical face coverings are not required but are strongly encouraged while in public, especially in circumstances that do not readily allow for appropriate physical distancing (grocery/retail stores, pharmacies, public transportation, etc.)

Can I go to church during phase one?

- Yes, places of worship can become operational with reduced capacity and where strict physical distancing protocols can be maintained between non-household members, effective Sunday, April 26th, 2020. Places of worship should avoid gathering in groups of more than 10 people in circumstances that do not readily allow for appropriate physical distancing.

Employer Guidance: Phase One

What does Phase One look like for me as an employer?

- Continue telework where possible
- Consider alternative schedules such as staggered shifts
- Provide accommodations to employees who are members of a vulnerable population or have vulnerable household members
- Close common areas where employees congregate if social distancing cannot be maintained
- Minimize non-essential travel
- Develop and implement appropriate policies, in accordance with federal, state, and local regulations and guidance, and informed by industry best practices, regarding:
 1. Social distancing
 2. Personal protective equipment (PPE)
 3. Temperature checks/symptom screening
 4. Testing, isolating, and contact tracing, in collaboration with public health authorities.
 5. Sanitation
 6. Use and disinfection of high traffic areas
- Monitor workforce for indicative symptoms. Do not allow people with symptoms of COVID-19 to work.
- Collaborate with public health officials when implementing policies and procedures for workforce contact tracing following an employee's COVID-19 positive test result.

What physical distancing requirements are in place for businesses?

- Social distancing of at least 6 feet between people must be maintained. This can be achieved through different means such as reducing business or seating capacity.

Is the governor or the health department providing specific information to businesses on how to reopen while complying with social distancing, disinfection, etc.?

- For further guidance and clarification, local businesses should consult with their local county health department about how Phase 1 measures will be implemented in their county leading up to May 4.
- In addition, DPHHS will be consulting and providing guidance to local jurisdictions, including local county sanitarians, regarding any questions or concerns businesses may have. This would include questions related to cleaning and disinfecting their establishments.
- At this time, DPHHS is working on information to supplement the Governor's directive and will be conducting calls with local sanitarians to provide the information necessary to help them oversee the safe operation of the establishments. State and local staff are working on guidance and instructions that will help business owners respond to and follow the directives.

General Business Guidance: Phase One

When do main street/ retail businesses re-open?

- Main street and retail businesses may re-open in accordance with the Phase One Terms of the Governor's Directive on Monday, April 27th, 2020.

I own a retail business. May I reopen under Phase One?

- Yes. 'Main Street and retail businesses can become operational with reduced capacity and where strict physical distancing protocols may be maintained.'
- Businesses that reopen must adhere to the following reopening guidelines for Phase One:
 - Health assessments must be conducted for all employees at the beginning of each shift.
 - In establishments where customers wait in line, non-household customers should remain physically distanced (e.g. 6' feet apart).
 - Waiting areas where adequate physical distancing cannot be maintained must be closed.
 - Customers should be encouraged to call for a reservation or appointment prior to entering the establishment. Businesses should use an online wait-listing app if possible.
- Physical distancing of 6' must be maintained between non-congregate (same household) customers, which may require:
 - A reduction in capacity;
 - A reduction in seating in service/waiting areas;
 - Management of waiting areas and lines;
 - Systems that reduce the amount of contact time between customers and staff.
- NOTE: This does not include gyms, or businesses/organizations pools or hot tubs; they will remain closed until Phase Two.

Local jurisdictions may choose to implement more stringent measures, so be sure to check with your local City/County Health Department for restrictions or additional requirements.

Restaurant/Bar/Brewery/Distillery/Casino Guidance: Phase One

Can I open my establishment starting Monday, April 26 when main street and retail businesses can open?

- No. Restaurants, bars, breweries, distilleries, and casinos can become operational on or after May 4, 2020 under strict physical distancing and reduced capacity protocols in accordance with State guidelines.
 - All patrons must be out of bars, restaurants, and casinos by 11:30 p.m. Breweries and distilleries shall follow existing laws on closing time.

Can I open my establishment to full capacity on May 4, 2020?

- No. You may open your establishment under strict physical distancing and reduced capacity protocols in accordance with State guidelines.
- Capacity must be limited to 50% of normal operating capacity to allow for adequate group spacing.

Can a group of 10 be seated together if they are comfortable being that close with each other and trying to follow social distancing guidelines?

- No, tables must be limited to six people per table.

Can my bar serve food at the counter?

- No. drinks and food must be served to customers at a table.

Can my establishment self-service salad bar be open?

- No, self-service buffets must be closed.

My establishment offers self-service drinks. Can my customers still serve themselves fountain drinks?

- Yes, customers may still serve themselves, however cups, straws, and lids should be behind a counter and handed to customers.

Can I keep condiments on the table between customers?

- No, table items including, condiments, menus, napkins, and décor, should be removed from the table unless they can be adequately cleaned between customers.

Can my bar/brewery still fill growlers?

- Yes, however growlers and refillable or reusable containers must be cleaned prior to being refilled.

Where can I find the proper sanitization practices for my restaurant?

- Materials will be available on the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) food and consumer services website.

What does my establishment need to clean between customers?

- All surfaces occupied must be cleaned including tables, chairs, booths, and highchairs.
- Table items including condiments, menus, napkins, and décor should be removed from the table unless they can be adequately cleaned.

How can my establishment provide for 6 feet of physical distancing between groups or tables?

- Increase table spacing, removing tables, or marking tables as closed;
- Provide for a physical barrier between tables; or
- Back-to-back booth seating provides adequate separation.

If I have different “sections” in my establishment including indoor and outdoor seating, are all sections in my establishment included in that 50% maximum capacity?

- Yes. The 50% capacity applies for the entire establishment.

Can my establishment sell drinks in glass or do they still have to be in to-go containers?

- You can go back to serving in glass.

Can my establishment serve food on plates or still to-go boxes?

- Yes, you can go back to serving on plates.

I am a small bar owner where the bar takes up most of the interior. Can I still allow customers into my establishment within the capacity guidelines if they cannot follow the 6-foot social distancing rule?

- No. Bars must remain closed if they cannot comply with social distancing guidelines, including the 6-foot distancing rule.

Phase one states that drink refills are not allowed. Can my establishment servers offer customers drink refills in a new glass or cup?

- Yes, refills may be served only if it is a new glass or cup.

Will alcohol takeout service/delivery still be allowed?

- Yes, the ‘expansions for delivery and takeout services, as provided both in the March 24 and March 26 Directives, are extended through the end of the emergency.’

I own gaming machines. How often do we have to clean machines?

- Gaming machines must be adequately cleaned between each customer.

How many gaming machines can my establishment have to safely comply with the social distancing guidelines?

- Gaming machines that are operational must be spaced 6-foot apart. Machines must be placed out of service if adequate spacing cannot be assured.

Local jurisdictions may choose to implement more stringent measures, so be sure to check with your local City/County Health Department for restrictions or additional requirements.

Personal Care Services Guidelines: Phase One

When can personal care services re-open?

- They may re-open in accordance with the Phase One Terms of the Governor’s Directive on Monday, April 27th, 2020.

What falls into the personal care services?

- Salons, Massage, Body Art, Barber Shops, etc.

What are the phase one requirements for my business?

- Operations that require close personal contact for an extended period result in exposing staff and customers to greater levels of risk. These situations require additional safety and health precautions.
- Screen customers prior to appointment for symptoms of fever, shortness of breath or a cough. Customers that have any of these symptoms must be rescheduled.
- Stylist / artist / service-provider and customer would be a “station” that would be 6 feet away from other “stations”.
- Provide for 6 feet of physical distancing between stations, this may require:
 - A reduction in capacity;
 - Increasing spacing, removing stations, or marking stations as closed;

- Providing for a physical barrier between stations;
- A reduction of seating in service and waiting areas; or
- Systems that reduce the amount of contact time between customers and staff.

Do I need to ask people to wear a mask and should I be wearing one as well?

- Utilize a face mask for staff and for customers whenever possible.

Local jurisdictions may choose to implement more stringent measures, so be sure to check with your local City/County Health Department for restrictions or additional requirements.

Miscellaneous Questions: Phase One

Guidance on Farmers Markets

- Farmers Markets may re-open only if they can follow strict social distancing and sanitation guidance. That should include clear markings for customers, and it is the responsibility of organizers to ensure that all vendors and customers are adhering to safe and sanitary operating conditions. Please note that additional restrictions may be placed on Farmers Markets by city and county health officials. Farmers Markets are encouraged to explore partnerships for food and produce vendors with local retailers for pickup or delivery services in lieu of regular gatherings if social distancing guidelines cannot be followed.

Wedding Venue and Reception Areas

- Venues may conduct wedding ceremonies/services if they can operate with strict social distancing in place. These venues should follow guidance for places of worship for the purposes of operating in Phase 1. Receptions exceeding 10 or more are prohibited during Phase 1.

Why are gyms / hot springs / pools not allowed to operate in Phase 1?

- Under Phase 1 of the Governor's Reopening Directive, gyms, pools and hot tubs may not reopen. Under Phase 2 of the Reopening Directive, they may become operational again with reduced capacity and only if they can adhere to strict physical distancing and if they exercise frequent sanitation protocols. Gyms and pools, by their nature, require individuals to be in close proximity to each other and lack the ability to easily adapt to

required social distancing and sanitation practices before each individual use of gym equipment, pool or hot tub. Only once the Governor determines that the state can move on to Phase 2, will these facilities be reintegrated.

Do gymnastic, Pilates and yoga studios need to follow the same guidance as gyms?

- As a general matter, gymnastics, Pilates and yoga studios are not permitted to be open in Phase 1. These facilities have the same challenges with social distancing requirements, frequency of contacts and sanitation facing health clubs and gyms. Exceptions may be appropriate for businesses offering limited physical rehabilitation, physical therapy or other services in response to direction from a primary care physician. Businesses should confer with their county health officials if they believe those exceptions may be appropriate and should operate under guidelines of personal care services if they are permitted to open during phase 1.

School Reopening Guidance: Phase One

Will my school district be reopening?

- The decision on whether to re-open a school will be left to the discretion of the local school board. If the school does re-open, the earliest it may open for in-person learning is May 7th, 2020.

When will schools be re-opening?

- Beginning, May 7th, 2020 all schools will have the option to re-open in accordance with the Governor's directive providing guidance for the phased reopening of Montana and establishing conditions for Phase One. The decision on whether to re-open, will be left to the discretion of the local school board.

My child is in an at-risk population. Does he/she have to return to school?

- No, it is up to parental discretion. Students who are high risk or who have family members who are high risk will not be penalized for failing to attend and should continue to receive remote support and accommodation until the risks are reduced.

Are spring sports and activities cancelled?

- These decisions will be made on a case-by-case basis by local school boards with social distancing considerations prioritized. According to the Directive, cancelling extra-curricular activities may be an option considered to enhance social distancing efforts.

Will graduation ceremonies be held?

- This decision will be made locally by the school board. The Governor's Directive offers several options that may be considered by school districts to enable the ability to comply with social distancing considerations, such as providing a live stream of the graduation ceremony, limiting spectator attendance, and conducting multiple ceremonies for larger schools.

How can social distancing be maintained at schools?

- The Governor's Directive provides numerous suggestions for how schools could implement social distancing protocol:
 - Keep students with the same group and classroom and rotate teachers through
 - Consider reducing bus load to allow for one student per seat
 - Prevent any non-school staff, including parents, from entering the school
 - Cancel extracurricular activities
 - Consider students eating lunch in a classroom to help limit the mixing of students
 - Consider breaking larger classes into smaller groups.
 - Students may alternate school days or attend for half days.

Does my child need to wear a mask to school?

- Requirements for personal protective equipment (PPE) will vary by school district, however, PPE such as masks are always encouraged.

What cleaning protocols will be in place when school resumes?

- Check with your local district for exact details but suggested cleaning and sanitation practices include:
- Frequent disinfecting of door handles, desks and other common spaces.
- Require handwashing in regular intervals.
- Keep libraries, gyms, and playgrounds off limits unless they can be sanitized between groups.
- Provide hand sanitizer.

I am looking for more information on the Governor's guidelines for re-opening schools. Where do I go?

- <https://covid19.mt.gov/joint-information-center>

Outdoor Recreation/Outdoor Retailers: Phase One

I need exercise. Can I recreate/fish/camp/hunt in Phase One?

- Yes. Outdoor recreation can 'become operational if sites adhere to strict physical distancing between groups and exercise frequent sanitation protocols if public facilities are open' (e.g. bathrooms, picnic areas, etc.).
- Individuals engaged in outdoor recreation must adhere to the following guidelines:
 - Areas that cannot practicably implement social distancing requirements or sanitation needs must remain closed.
- While public lands, fishing access sites, playgrounds, group-use areas and parks are encouraged to continue to provide outdoor recreation opportunities for local and regional users, this is at the discretion of local and state managers. Visitors should check the status of any closures and restrictions before going to the park/outdoor area in question.
- Individuals can engage in outdoor activity but should still comply with social distancing (6' from others) and avoid gatherings of 10 people or more. 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).
- If you are quarantining (e.g. have come from or traveled out-of-state) you cannot leave for groceries, public outdoor recreation (including hunting/fishing), to go to work or any other activity. You must remain at your place of quarantine for the duration of the quarantine period (14 days). Exceptions will only be made in the event of a medical emergency, fire, natural disaster or other act of God preventing the ongoing healthful habitation of a residence. (See more information below.)
- Local jurisdictions may choose to implement more stringent measures, so be sure to check with your local City/County Health Department for restrictions or additional requirements.

I am coming from out-of-state to fish/hunt/camp/recreate. Do I need to quarantine?

- Yes. The Directive for travelers coming from out-of-state has been extended through the end of the emergency (unless modified by a subsequent Directive).
- Travelers coming from outside of Montana must self-quarantine for 14 days. (See section above for additional information.)
- Outfitters, camp hosts and other outdoor businesses should communicate to potential customers about the 14-day mandatory quarantine for those coming from out-of-state.

Will golf courses be able to stay open?

- Yes. Outdoor recreation can 'become operational if sites adhere to strict physical distancing between groups and exercise frequent sanitation protocols if public facilities are open' (e.g. bathrooms, picnic areas, etc.).
- Individuals and businesses engaged in outdoor recreation must adhere to the following guidelines:
 - Areas that cannot practicably implement social distancing requirements or sanitation needs must remain closed.
- In addition to the above, retail/business requirements must be followed to reopen during Phase 1:
 - Health assessments must be conducted for all employees at the beginning of each shift.
 - In establishments where customers wait in line, non-household customers should remain physically distanced (e.g. 6' feet apart).
 - Waiting areas where adequate physical distancing cannot be maintained must be closed.
 - Customers should be encouraged to call for a reservation or appointment prior to entering the establishment. Businesses should use an online wait-listing app if possible.
- Physical distancing of 6' must be maintained between non-congregate customers, which may require:
 - A reduction in capacity (in order to safely operate, must be able to provide adequate physical distancing. This would be different for different types of businesses, but may entail limiting the number of customers in store/shop at same time, etc.

- A reduction in seating in service/waiting areas;
 - Management of waiting areas and lines;
 - Systems that reduce the amount of contact time between customers and staff.
- Golf cart usage, as well as the usage of frequently touched items like sand rakes, ball washers, and flags must be sanitized between each use, and strict social distancing of non-congregate customers must be observed.
- Local jurisdictions may choose to implement more stringent measures, so be sure to check with your local City/County Health Department for restrictions or additional requirements.

I am a fishing guide/outfitter. Can we operate under the new Directive?

- Yes. 'Guides and outfitters may offer services consistent with any ongoing quarantine travel restrictions provided they adhere to social distancing guidelines and sanitation protocols.'
- Outdoor recreation and businesses can 'become operational if sites adhere to strict physical distancing between groups and exercise frequent sanitation protocols if public facilities are open' (e.g. shops, bathrooms, picnic areas, etc.).
- Individuals engaged in outdoor recreation must adhere to the following guidelines:
 - Areas that cannot practicably implement social distancing requirements or sanitation needs must remain closed.
- Guides and outfitters must take care to notify out of state guests of the requirement for 14-day quarantines upon arrival in Montana.
- Local jurisdictions may choose to implement more stringent measures, so be sure to check with your local City/County Health Department for restrictions or additional requirements.

I own a fly fishing shop. Can I reopen during Phase 1?

- Yes. Outdoor recreation businesses can 'become operational if sites adhere to strict physical distancing between groups and exercise frequent sanitation protocols if public facilities are open' (e.g. bathrooms, picnic areas, etc.).
- Individuals and businesses engaged in outdoor recreation must adhere to the following guidelines:
 - Areas that cannot practicably implement social distancing requirements or sanitation needs must remain closed.
- 'Main Street and retail businesses can become operational with reduced capacity and where strict physical distancing protocols may be maintained.' (pg. 5)
- In addition to the above, retail/business requirements must be followed to reopen during Phase One:
 - Health assessments must be conducted for all employees at the beginning of each shift.
 - In establishments where customers wait in line, non-household customers should remain physically distanced (e.g. 6' feet apart).
 - Waiting areas where adequate physical distancing cannot be maintained must be closed.
 - Customers should be encouraged to call for a reservation or appointment prior to entering the establishment. Businesses should use an online wait-listing app if possible.
- Physical distancing of 6' must be maintained between non-congregate (same household) customers, which may require:
 - A reduction in capacity;

- A reduction in seating in service/waiting areas;
 - Management of waiting areas and lines;
 - Systems that reduce the amount of contact time between customers and staff.
- Local jurisdictions may choose to implement more stringent measures, so be sure to check with your local City/County Health Department for restrictions or additional requirements.

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

- People looking to get outside and enjoy spring will continue to have ample opportunities with Gov. Steve Bullock's phased approach to re-opening the state, which was announced Wednesday.
 - Most of Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks' sites typically open and operational at this time of year remain so. This includes all FWP fishing access sites, most state parks and those wildlife management areas that don't have seasonal closures.
 - People heading outside still need to keep in mind Montana's social distancing directives. Per Gov. Bullock's "Reopening the Big Sky" plan, all who recreate outdoors should "avoid gathering in groups of more than 10 people in circumstances that do not readily allow for appropriate physical distancing." They are further asked to "exercise frequent sanitation protocols if public facilities are open" and continue to follow all previously established hygiene measures.

The following FWP updates are in response to Gov. Bullock's plan announced on 4/22:

- Overnight camping opportunities will resume at most FWP fishing access sites and state parks on May 1.
- Campers between now and May 15 may encounter reduced amenities or limited services that are typical for the opening of early-season recreational sites. Please check the FWP website for specific site restrictions or closures.
- Group sites, including fishing piers, will open May 1.
- At all sites, as in other aspects of life, social distancing guidelines must be strictly followed.
- Visitor centers, park offices and FWP lobbies are still closed to the public at this time.
- Bannack State Park will remain closed until further notice.
- Float recreation on the Smith River will resume May 5. Between now and then, FWP staff will continue to work with local and federal partners on ways to safely allow recreation in this popular state park and river corridor once recreation activities resume.
- Out-of-state travelers are still required to follow the governor's 14-day quarantine directive when they come to Montana, as they carry the risk of spreading COVID-19 to Montana residents. Guidance for those directives can be found at fwp.mt.gov/covid19. The directives include the requirements that those in quarantine cannot leave for groceries, recreation, work or any other activity.
- Paddlefish season (yellow tag) closures on the Yellowstone and Lower Missouri rivers are still in effect.

- Paddlefish season (white tag) on the Upper Missouri River will run as usual from May 1 through June 15. However, this year there will be no snag-and-release opportunity. Visit fwp.mt.gov for information about other paddlefishing opportunities later in the year.
- Most wildlife management areas will remain under their normal seasonal closures until the standard May 15 date.
- The suspension of nonresident spring hunting for turkey and black bear will expire April 24. As in other circumstances, out-of-state travelers must follow the governor's 14-day quarantine directive.
- Hunter education class closures will extend through at least May 7. FWP is working to develop other class opportunities to meet the needs of students, and still align with social distancing guidelines and restrictions on the size of gatherings. As those logistics are finalized, more information will be available.
- As the governor's plan progresses through its three phases, FWP will announce further updates. For more information on FWP's response to COVID-19, please visit fwp.mt.gov/covid19. For more information on Gov. Bullock's response, visit <https://covid19.mt.gov/>.

Will private campgrounds be open?

- Yes, private campgrounds may remain open so long as they are able to comply with the social distancing requirements.
- Travel from another state or country is a common source of COVID19 infection in Montana. Everyone who travels to Montana from another state or country must self-quarantine for 14-days or the duration of their stay, whichever is shorter. This applies to campground stays as well.
- 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.
- Exclusions to this directive include public safety, public health, healthcare works, travelers passing through on their way to another destination, and travelers visiting for work purposes.
- 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.
- Directive is mandatory, not optional. It can be enforced by DPHHS, the Attorney General, county attorney or other local authorities at the direction of a county attorney.

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.
- All travelers arriving in Montana for other than work purposes must quarantine for 14-days upon their arrival in the state.

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.

Quarantine for Travelers Arriving in Montana: Through End of Emergency

Do I have to quarantine if I come into the state? What if I'm working?

- Yes, the current requirement for those visiting from out of state is to quarantine for 14 days or for the duration of their visit – whichever is shorter. If Travel to the state is for work-related reasons, then you are exempt. Employees, such as seasonal workers or members of outdoor work crews, are exempt from the quarantine requirement during work hours, but should limit all contact with the public outside of work hours for two weeks. We recommend employers consult with their local health department for additional guidance regarding employee housing, sanitation, etc. Local public health departments and boards of health also have the ability to implement more stringent restrictions.

Do people staying at a vacation rental need to self-quarantine?

- Yes, any visitor from another state or country traveling to Montana for non-work-related purposes, must self-quarantine for 14-days or the duration of their stay.
- Self-quarantine means that the visitor or resident must stay within the boundaries of the property they are residing in while in Montana, and cannot leave those boundaries or interact with other people. This includes the visitor or resident being prohibited from grocery stores,

restaurants, gas stations/convenience stores, places of worship/churches, schools, and gatherings.

Additional Information

- Travel from another state or country is a common source of COVID19 infection in Montana.
- Everyone who travels to Montana from another state or country must self-quarantine for 14-days or the duration of their stay, whichever is shorter.
- 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.
- Exclusions to this directive include public safety, public health, healthcare works, travelers passing through on their way to another destination, and travelers visiting for work purposes.
- If you are self-quarantining you cannot leave for groceries, public outdoor recreation, to go to work or any other activity. You must remain at your place of quarantine for the duration of the quarantine period. Exceptions will only be made in the event of a medical emergency, fire, natural disaster or other act of God preventing the ongoing healthful habitation of a residence.
- 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.
- Directive is mandatory, not optional. It can be enforced by DPHHS, the Attorney General, county attorney or other local authorities at the direction of a county attorney.
- Montana Department of Commerce has at tourism informational line: 1-800-847-4868

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF MONTANA

Steve Bullock
GOVERNOR



Mike Cooney
LT. GOVERNOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Wednesday, April 29, 2020

CONTACTS:

Marissa Perry, Communications Director, Governor's Office, (406) 444-4514

Erin Loranger, Press Secretary, Governor's Office, (406) 444-9725

Governor Bullock Outlines Framework to Ramp up Montana's Testing Capacity

Governor Bullock lays out testing protocols, establishes strike teams

MONTANA – Governor Steve Bullock today outlined a framework to ramp up testing capacity in Montana over the next several months with a goal to eventually conduct 60,000 tests per month and prioritize testing for vulnerable Montanans in nursing homes and assisted living facilities, tribal communities, and those with COVID-19 symptoms.

"As we enter phase one, we are committed to further ramping up our testing capacity in the state," Governor Bullock said. "Among our core preparedness responsibilities is ensuring our ability to test symptomatic people for COVID-19 and trace contacts of COVID positive results, which we have been doing effectively. Additionally, we are ramping up efforts to support testing for vulnerable Montanans, our tribal communities, and those with COVID-19 symptoms as we continue to suppress the virus."

"Montana's nursing homes and assisted living facilities have worked tirelessly to protect our vulnerable seniors during this very challenging time and we welcome and appreciate Governor Bullock's initiative to assure availability of testing for our staff and residents. There is widespread support for this effort among our facilities and we are happy to collaborate in every way we can," said Rose Hughes, Executive Director, Montana Health Care Association.

"We appreciate the governor's support for tribal sovereignty and partnership in protecting tribal communities. We are vigilant in our efforts to keep our communities safe and the testing approach outlined by the governor will help support our efforts," said President Andrew Werk of the Fort Belknap Indian Community Council.

"This testing framework will provide the support needed for our Montana citizens, moreover, this will provide our nurse practitioner and physician led, independent rural health care clinics, the ability to provide the much needed care directly to those patients."

This allows these rural patients to receive healthcare within their rural communities,” said Vicky Byrd, Chief Executive Officer, Montana Nurses Association.

Governor Bullock also established five strike teams made up of a certified nurse and National Guard Members to be deployed across Montana to respond to COVID-19 cases in nursing homes and long term care facilities or to provide training and assistance with proper infectious disease control protocols as requested.

Using funds from the CARES Act, Governor Bullock is establishing a \$5 million grant program available to local health departments, tribal public health, and urban Indian clinics to enhance existing COVID-19 contact tracing programs, support local businesses in developing plans to safely reopen and adhere to social distancing guidelines, and increase education or enforcement activity.

The testing framework outlined by Governor Bullock will be supported by both federal and private partnerships. The federal government recently committed to supplying states with 12.7 million swabs each month beginning in May.

Last week the state received 5,000 swabs from FEMA and 10,000 more swabs on Tuesday to begin ramping up testing. Another 7,000 swabs from FEMA are expected to arrive this week. Governor Bullock also sourced an additional 3,000 swabs from a private vendor that arrived this week.

With a consistent supply chain of swabs and other testing materials such as reagents, Montana can quickly scale up its ability to test. The state lab will prioritize processing tests for those experiencing symptoms related to COVID-19 and will continue to have a quick turnaround. Other testing devices could include the rapid Abbott machines, equipment in hospitals, and partnerships with private labs will assist the state in boosting capacity.

Testing protocols will be scaled based upon availability of swabs and other testing supplies. Anyone with one or more symptoms of COVID-19, including the CDC’s recent expanded list of symptoms, will be prioritized for testing. Governor Bullock continues to urge providers to test any Montanan with one or more symptoms.

Additionally, the state will begin a process to test residents and employees in nursing homes and assisted living facilities and will continue enhanced surveillance in those facilities. The state will also partner with tribal communities to perform enhanced surveillance testing.

As more testing becomes available, the state will begin partnering with community health centers for testing frontline workers and engaging in general population surveillance testing.

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CITY OF BILLINGS

BILL COLE, MAYOR

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April 29, 2020 11:30 a.m.

STATEMENT BY MAYOR BILL COLE

I am sad to learn of Yellowstone County's second death due to COVID-19. Our hearts go out to the family and friends of our fellow Montanan. We stand with them and with one another in this time of sorrow. We all need to do our part to stop the spread of this disease and protect our community from further heartache.

Bill Cole



MEDIA RELEASE

APRIL 27, 2020

MET TRANSIT CONTINUES FARE-FREE BUS SERVICE THROUGH MAY 31, 2020.

In a continuing response to the significant economic and social issues resulting from the COVID-19 health crisis, the City of Billings MET Transit system will continue offering fare-free bus service through May 31, 2020. The City of Billings understands the significant economic impact the crisis has had upon the population and will continue to provide essential transportation service to the community. Continuing to operating fare-free service will provide further financial relief to passengers while also supporting MET Transit's efforts to operate in accordance with social distancing and Governor Bullock's Re-Opening Montana Phase One recommendations. These efforts are realized through not requiring passengers and transit operators to exchange fare media and payment, as well as not 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 employment and services throughout the community as the state and the Nation transition. MET continues to ask all passengers to travel only for essential trips as this will assist 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

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Update concerning parking enforcement and access to parking garages:

Beginning Monday, May 4, 2020:

1. Parking Enforcement will resume patrolling the downtown area.
2. The Park Three Parking Garage will open to public parking.

Beginning Monday, May 11, 2020:

1. The Park Two Parking Garage will open to public parking.

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

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