



**ORDER of the MISSOULA CITY & COUNTY HEALTH OFFICER**  
**Requirements for Reopening Businesses and Events in Missoula County**  
**May 8, 2020**

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

WHEREAS, on April 22, 2020, the Governor issued a Directive with requirements and guidance for the phased reopening of Montana;

WHEREAS, the Governor's Directive sets forth a minimum set of statewide requirements in Phase One that are enforceable by local public health jurisdictions;

WHEREAS, local jurisdictions can enact guidelines that are more restrictive than State guidelines;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 50-2-118 of the Montana Code Annotated, a local health officer in carrying out the purpose of the public health system shall take steps to limit contact between people in order to protect the public health from imminent threats, including but not limited to ordering the closure of buildings or facilities where people congregate and cancelling events;

WHEREAS, in response to local epidemiological data, testing capacity, incident objectives and national guidance, Missoula's local public health jurisdiction on April 24, 2020 issued orders that were more stringent than the Governor's directive for personal care businesses, events and gatherings, and retail establishments;

WHEREAS, in the two week recommended re-assessment period since April 24, 2020, Missoula County's epidemiological trend improved (reduced from nine active COVID-19 cases to zero and no new cases for more than one incubation period), testing capacity has improved and on April 29, 2020, the Governor announced an enhanced testing plan; and

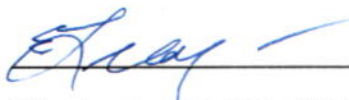
WHEREAS, the department has researched additional mitigation measures for protection of the public and employees when conducting personal care services that, by necessity, occur within the six-foot physical distancing zone and has deemed some to be required and offers others as recommended practices.

THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

- 1) Effective May 11, 2020, events and gatherings such as, but not limited to, fairs, festivals, craft fairs, vendor events, concerts, sporting events, and races shall be limited to 50 people and six-foot physical distance shall be maintained. Farmers' markets selling only unprocessed agricultural products and graduation ceremonies, subject to section 2 and 3 of this Order are excluded from this requirement.
- 2) Effective May 23, 2020, farmers' markets selling only unprocessed agricultural products are allowed upon written approval of the Missoula City-County Health Department as long as the minimum requirements in Appendix A Farmers' Markets are met. Market organizers must scale back, postpone or cancel the market if notified by the Health Officer to do so.
- 3) Effective May 23, 2020, graduation ceremonies are allowed upon written approval of the Missoula City-County Health Department if the minimum requirements in Appendix B Graduation Ceremonies are met. Organizers must scale back, postpone, or cancel graduation ceremonies if notified by the Health Officer to do so.
- 4) Business and individuals providing grooming, beauty, body art, piercing, massage, spa and similar services, including but not limited to barbers (including barbers and barbers - nonchemical), cosmetologists, electrologists, estheticians, manicurists and massage therapists may re-open Monday, May 11 as long as they meet the minimum requirements in Appendix C.
- 5) Retail businesses may be open to the public if the requirements below are met:
  - a. At any given time, maximum number of customers shall be 50% of usual business capacity;
  - b. Measures are in place to protect customers and staff waiting in line at checkout counters, such as visible markers or signs denoting six-foot separation or temporary barriers;
  - c. Staff have received training on practicing good hygiene, maintaining physical distancing, recognizing symptoms of COVID-19, and not reporting to work or remaining at work if experiencing symptoms; and
  - d. The business has developed and implemented an individualized plan addressing the requirements in the Governor's re-opening directive and this order, as evidenced by completing Appendix D. The completed appendix must be maintained on site and be made available to the Department upon request.
- 6) In addition to the minimum Phase One requirements included in the Governor's Directive issued April 22, 2020, dining areas in food and drink establishments such as restaurants, bars, breweries, distilleries and casinos shall:

- a. Remain closed if the requirements and guidelines in the Governor's Directive cannot be met; and
  - b. Provide for at least six feet of separation between diners, or groups of diners, including those sitting in booths.
- 7) These measures shall remain in effect until this order is revoked or revised based on review of epidemiological data, testing availability, and public health and medical capacity to control transmission of the virus and treat COVID-19 or unless more stringent measures are issued by the governor. Subsequent orders from the Governor and/or the Missoula City-County Health Officer instituting restrictions as a result of epidemiological data, such as an increase in COVID-19 cases, may result in required cancellations of events otherwise authorized in this Order and closures and further restrictions on establishments.
- 8) The requirements and restrictions in this Order are in addition to existing Directives by the Governor. Individuals and businesses should rely on this Order where any inconsistencies exist between this Order and an existing Governor's Directive.

Signed:



Ellen Leahy, RN, MN, MPH  
Director & Health Officer



Date