The Health Officer’s Order & COVID-19: Frequently Asked Questions

1. What about nursing homes?
   a. Because the people who are living in nursing homes (whether due to age or chronic health conditions) are at high risk for complications from COVID-19 and other respiratory illness, nursing homes and similar facilities have already begun taking serious prevention measures and restricting visitation.
   b. Montana State DPHHS has directed such facilities to abide by CDC guidance, which can be found here:

2. What about churches?
   a. Older adults and people who have severe underlying chronic medical conditions like heart or lung disease or diabetes seem to be at higher risk for serious complications related to COVID-19. We encourage high-risk individuals to avoid crowds as much as possible.
   b. The President of the United States has directed that people do not congregate in groups of 10 or more. Consider alternative measures for worship & work:
      i. Hold more worship services with fewer attendees
      ii. Stagger work or small group schedules to minimize the number of people in your building and direct anyone present to use social distancing measures.
      iii. Consider holding virtual gatherings or worship services.
   c. The EPA has developed guidance for cleaning & sanitation, which can be found here:
      i. https://www.epa.gov/coronavirus

3. What about daycares?
   a. We understand that daycare is an essential service and are not closing daycares at this time.
   b. First responders & medical personnel looking for daycare should contact Great Falls Public Schools.
   c. Daycare owners/operators should separate children and staff into groups of 10 or less, per President Trump’s guidelines.
      i. Children and staff should be screened for symptoms when entering the building, and should be sent home if they start showing symptoms over the course of the day.
      ii. Attempt to create space between children and staff, and keep groups of 10 separated from each other throughout the building
   d. The EPA has developed guidance for cleaning & sanitation, which can be found here:
      i. https://www.epa.gov/coronavirus

4. What about hair salons?
   a. Clients and staff who are sick should stay home and reschedule.
      i. In particular, older adults and people who have severe underlying chronic medical conditions like diabetes or heart/lung disease seem to be at higher risk for serious complications related to COVID-19. We encourage high-risk individuals to stay home as much as possible.
      ii. If anyone appears to develop symptoms over the course of the day, send them home immediately.
   b. If a salon has multiple hairdressers, stagger the scheduling of appointments so that only 10 people are in the building at a time.
   c. The EPA has developed guidance for cleaning & sanitation, which can be found here:
      i. https://www.epa.gov/coronavirus
5. What about work sites with more than 10 people?
   a. For agencies or establishments whose services are not restricted by the Health Officer's order, we refer you to the CDC's latest guidance, which can be found here:
   b. Businesses should immediately begin preparing to modify their day-to-day operations or even close temporarily.
      i. Close areas where large groups could congregate or where people would be in unavoidably close vicinity to each other (meeting rooms, break rooms, etc.)
      ii. Change face-to-face or walk-in services to be conducted by phone, email
      iii. Let employees work remotely whenever possible, especially older or high-risk employees
      iv. Hold meetings virtually whenever possible
      v. Distance employees from each other by rearranging workspaces
      vi. Send sick employees home and develop generous sick leave policies if possible
      vii. Research online services your business could provide
   c. The EPA has developed guidance for cleaning & sanitation, which can be found here:
      i. [https://www.epa.gov/coronavirus](https://www.epa.gov/coronavirus)

6. Is there a penalty if a business refuses to restrict services and stays open to the public? How will the order be enforced?
   a. Yes. Clarifying information will be issued soon.

7. What about people who are traveling to our area for healthcare? For instance, for elective surgeries?
   a. Currently, travel WITHIN the United States is not restricted.
   b. At this time, whether elective services are offered is determined by each medical facility. Factors considered are medical supplies, staffing, and facility size.
   c. Contact healthcare facilities directly to learn about their policies on elective healthcare during a potential outbreak.

8. What's happening at the airport? What about students and families returning from spring break?
   a. Most larger airports that send flights into Great Falls have screening processes in place to prevent symptomatic travelers from exposing others to COVID-19 or other illnesses.
   b. We recommend social distancing while waiting for flights.
   c. To learn more about the social distancing procedures in place on flights, visit your airline’s website or reach out to their customer service department.
   d. We urge people with recent or upcoming travel to review CDC travel guidelines and reach out to a medical provider immediately if they develop flu-like symptoms. Guidelines can be found here:
   e. CCHD is working closely with the Great Falls International Airport to ensure the safety and health of our community.

Please contact CCHD at 406-454-6950 or health@cascadecountymt.gov with additional questions.