Health Officer Order Issued

Kalispell, MT – An Order of Health Officer was issued today by Hillary Hanson with the support of the Flathead City-County Board of Health. The order was issued to help reduce the spread of COVID-19 and slow the current pandemic. The Order will go into effect Friday at 6am March 20, 2020 and go through March 30, 2020 at 8:00 am.

The order does the following:

- All bars, breweries, wineries, distilleries, restaurants, casinos, gyms, fitness facilities, athletic centers, workout studios, ice skating rinks, indoor climbing venues, indoor sporting arenas, cinemas, and theatres shall be closed to the public
- Notwithstanding the foregoing, restaurants, grills, or kitchens may operate on a limited basis by providing service via take-out, drive-through, and/or delivery. Restaurants that maintain dining room facilities in addition to take-out, drive-through and/or delivery operations must close their dining room operations.
- Breweries, distilleries, and wineries may continue to make alcoholic beverages, but may not operate tasting rooms, or otherwise serve non-sealed alcoholic beverages to the public.
- Food service establishments which provide the primary meal sources for a population that lives or works within its buildings, such as cafeterias in hospital and care facilities may remain open to the population such an establishment serves.
- This Order does not apply to grocery stores or deli counters within grocery stores, or to convenience stores. Convenience stores with combined restaurants shall close their dining room facilities.
- This Order does not apply to licensed physical therapy practices, provided that such practices exercise appropriate social distancing.

The order goes hand in hand with the President’s Coronavirus Guidelines for America, advising individuals to avoid social gatherings of 10 or more people.

More information about COVID-19 can be found on the following sites:

- [https://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/cdepi/diseases/coronavirusmt](https://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/cdepi/diseases/coronavirusmt)