FAQs for Health Officer Order

1. What businesses are impacted?
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.

2. How long are businesses closed for?
The order is effective Friday March 20th at 6:00am until Monday March 30th at 8:00am pending further notification.

3. Do I have to completely shut down?
No. Restaurants/kitchens may operate on a limited basis by providing service via take-out, drive-through, and/or delivery. Dining rooms must be closed to the public.

4. I’m a brewery/winery/distillery, what can I do?
Breweries/wineries/distilleries may continue to make alcoholic beverages, but may not operate tasting rooms, or otherwise serve non-sealed alcoholic beverages to the public.

5. Are cafeterias or dining halls still allowed to function?
Food establishments which provide the primary meal sources for a population that lives or works within its buildings, such as hospital cafeterias and care facilities may remain open to the population such an establishment serves.

6. Are grocery stores closing?
The order does not apply to grocery stores, deli counters in grocery stores, or convenience stores. Convenience stores with combined restaurants shall close their dining room facilities.

7. How can the Health Department do this?
Section 50-2-118 of Montana Code Annotated.
“A local health officer, in carrying out the purpose of the public health system, shall take steps to limit contacts 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”

8. Can I read the whole Health Officer Order?
The entirety of the order can be viewed on our website at www.flatheadhealth.org on the COVID-19 Press Release page.