

STILLWATER COUNTY UNIFIED COMMAND

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PRESS RELEASE – For Immediate Release

April 23, 2020 – Columbus, Montana. Governor Bullock announced a Phase One Reopening of Montana on Wednesday April 22, 2020. This is a State Directive that allows for businesses to re-open with guidance and safety measures in order to help us move closer to a new “normal.” There are some very important date driven guidelines that Governor Bullock outlined as follows:

- The Stay-At-Home Order has been extended for individuals until Sunday April 26th and for non-essential businesses until Monday April 27th 2020 with exceptions (e.g., bar and restaurant closures extended to May 4).
- The March 30 Directive continues to provide a *mandatory 14 day quarantine* for certain travelers arriving in Montana from another state or county and all of its terms are extended through the end of the emergency. This includes individuals that have a secondary home located in Montana and those owners returning to their Montana residences.
- **EFFECTIVE Sunday April 26, 2020:**
 - All vulnerable populations should continue to follow the stay at home guidance.
 - All individuals, apart from household members should: maintain at least 6 feet of physical distance from others, avoid gatherings of more than **10 people** in circumstances that do not readily allow for appropriate physical distancing, minimize non-essential travel and adhere to Montana guidelines regarding quarantine
- **EFFECTIVE Monday April 27, 2020:**
 - Main Street and retail businesses can become operational with reduced capacity and where strict physical distancing protocols can be maintained.
 - Outdoor recreation can become operational if sites adhere to strict physical distancing between groups and exercise frequent sanitation protocols if public facilities are open.
 - Organized youth activities can consider becoming operational if physical distancing guidelines can be implemented. Avoid youth activities in groups of more than **10 people** in circumstances that do not readily allow for appropriate physical distancing.
- **EFFECTIVE Monday May 4, 2020:**
 - 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.
 - These businesses will be required to close their doors and have all patrons out by 11:30 p.m.
 - The expansion for delivery and takeout services provided in the March 24th and 26th Directives, will be extended through the end of the emergency.

- **EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY through the end of the emergency:**
 - Gyms, pools, and hot tubs remain closed
 - Other places of assembly remain closed (e.g., movie and performance theaters, concert halls, bowling alleys, bingo halls, and music halls).
 - Senior living or assisted living facilities must continue to prohibit visitors. Those who do interact with residents and patients must ensure strict protocols regarding hygiene and protection are followed.
 - Childcare facilities can remain operational but should follow state and local guidelines regarding operational levels and occupancy.
- **EFFECTIVE Thursday May 7, 2020:**
 - All schools have the option to return to in-classroom teaching delivery, at discretion of the local school boards.

Unified Command would like to thank all of the residents of Stillwater County for their efforts to help prevent the spread of COVID19. Due to your dedicated efforts, we have been able to maintain a low number of cases. We want to strongly encourage all individuals to continue to be vigilant in efforts as we move forward with reopening. Frequent hand washing with soap and water, or an alcohol-based hand sanitizer, staying home when you are sick, social distancing when attending businesses, and the use of masks when going to businesses will continue to protect you, as well as the ones closest to you.

Thank you for your efforts! We will get through this together!

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