ORDER OF HEALTH OFFICER
April 2, 2020

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization has declared the worldwide outbreak of COVID-19 Novel Coronavirus a pandemic;

WHEREAS, COVID-19, a respiratory disease that can result in serious illness or death and is a new strain of Coronavirus that had not been previously identified in humans and can easily spread from person-to-person;

WHEREAS, as of April 2, 2020, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) indicates there are over 226,000 cases and over 5,000 deaths in the United States;

WHEREAS, as of April 2, 2020, the State of Montana has 227 confirmed cases and 5 deaths,

WHEREAS, the CDC identifies the potential public health threat posed by COVID-19 both globally and in the United States as "high" and has advanced that person-to-person spread of the COVID-19 will continue to occur globally, including within the United States, Montana, and Stillwater County;

WHEREAS, all states in the United States are experiencing confirmed cases of COVID-19;

WHEREAS, the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) recognizes COVID-19 as a threat to the residents of Montana;

WHEREAS, the Stillwater County Health Department has activated Unified Command and is implementing emergency response plans and protocols to prepare for cases in Stillwater County;

WHEREAS, the Stillwater County Unified Command has also worked to identify, contact, and test individuals in Stillwater County who have been potentially exposed to COVID-19 in coordination with the State of Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services and the CDC;

WHEREAS, proactively implementing mitigation and containment measures to slow the spread of the virus is in the best interests of Stillwater County and its people;

WHEREAS, the circumstances of this outbreak may exceed the capacity of the services, personnel, equipment, supplies and facilities of Stillwater County;

WHEREAS, based upon all of the above, the Governor of the State of Montana, in consultation with public health authorities has issued a Shelter-in-Place Order that is in place until April 10, 2020;

WHEREAS, the Stillwater County Board of Health has the duty to protect the public from the introduction and spread of communicable disease or other conditions of public health importance, including through actions to ensure the removal of filth or other contaminants that might cause disease or adversely affect public health;

WHEREAS, Stillwater County's Health Officer has determined that the potential spread of COVID-19 constitutes a public health emergency and actions must be taken to avert and minimize the outbreak of this communicable disease;

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service has issued restrictions effective as of March 26, 2020 outlined in Order Number 01-11-20-00-01, pursuant to 16 U.S.C. § 551 and 36 C.F.R § 261.50(a) and (b);

WHEREAS, the Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks has closed all group-use sites, closed all overnight camping, and closed all visitor centers through at least April 10, 2020;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 50-2-118 of the Montana Code Annotated, a local health officer in carrying out the purpose of 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; and,

WHEREAS, the local health officer should institute his authority to close buildings and facilities to prevent the spread of COVID-19 within the County of Stillwater, Montana.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, pursuant to Title 50, Chapter 2, Part 1, and specifically Section 50-2-118 of the Montana Code Annotated:

Effective at 11 am MST on Friday April 3, 2020 for a period of time up to and through midnight April 11, 2020:

1. **All playgrounds (jungle gyms, swing sets, and other stationary park equipment), tennis, volley, and basketball courts will be closed due to the possibility of transmission of COVID-19. This does not include green spaces, trailheads, or open park sites that will remain open with the appropriate use of social distancing.**
2. **In conjunction with the City of Columbus, USDA Forest Service and Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, all developed recreation sites, including camp sites, picnic areas, and restroom facilities within the County will be closed until further notice, effective immediately. This also includes the limiting of gatherings to less than 10 people, under current guidance of the Shelter-In-Place order.**
3. **No overnight camping will be permitted for recreational purposes. Utilizing a camper/RV for long-term or permanent living quarters in an RV Park or living quarters for employment purposes in an RV Park are allowable uses.**

4. This order is effective at 11 am Friday, April 3, 2020 through, April 11, 2020 at midnight pending further notifications. This Notice is subject to extension as necessary.

Dr. Cody White, D.O.
HEALTH OFFICER FOR COUNTY OF STILLWATER, MONTANA