



CITY-COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

115 4th Street South, Great Falls, MT 59401 • 406-454-6950

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:
 - i. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/healthcare-facilities/prevent-spread-in-long-term-care-facilities.html>
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.
 - iv. Worshippers or employees who are sick should be sent home before entering the building.
 - 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>



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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:
 - i. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/businesses-employers.html>
 - 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>
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:
 - i. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html>
 - 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](tel:406-454-6950) or health@cascadecountymt.gov with additional questions.