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Gallatin City-County Health Department

Environmental Health Services
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ORDER OF HEALTH OFFICER FOR ISOLATION HO-2021-001

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

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is a respiratory disease that can result in serious illness or death and can easily spread from person-to-person;

WHEREAS, former President Donald Trump declared a nationwide emergency related to COVID-19 on March 13, 2020 via presidential proclamation;

WHEREAS, on March 18, 2020, the Gallatin County Board of County Commissioners proclaimed a state of emergency in Gallatin County, Montana due to the COVID-19 pandemic;

WHEREAS, on July 20, 2021, Xavier Becerra, the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services, renewed the determination that a public health emergency exists nationwide due to COVID-19;

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have reported a reversal in the prior downward trajectory of COVID-19 cases, with a "rapid and alarming rise in the COVID case and hospitalization rates around the country"¹;

WHEREAS, the CDC also reports that the Delta variant, currently the predominant strain of the virus in the United States, "is more infectious and is leading to increased transmissibility when compared to other variants, even in vaccinated individuals"²;

WHEREAS, the CDC recommends that all persons who test positive for COVID-19 isolate themselves from others, whether or not vaccinated³;

WHEREAS, per § 50-2-116(1)(e), MCA, (2021) to carry out the purposes of the public health system, the Gallatin City-County Board of Health ("Board of Health") shall "identify, assess, prevent, and ameliorate conditions of public health importance through . . . (iii) isolation and quarantine measures";

WHEREAS, pursuant to § 50-2-118(1), MCA (2021), in carrying out the purpose of the public

¹ <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/variants/delta-variant.html>

² *Id.*

³ <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated.html>; <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/quarantine.html>.

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health system, the Gallatin City-County Health Officer (“Health Officer”) “shall . . . (d) establish and maintain quarantine and isolation measures as adopted by the local board of health”;

WHEREAS, the Board of Health has adopted an Isolation and Quarantine Policy (rev. Dec. 27, 2017) to guide the Health Officer “in establishing and maintaining isolation, quarantine, and community control measures to prevent the spread of communicable disease, pursuant to § 50-2-116, MCA”;

WHEREAS, the Isolation and Quarantine Policy incorporates the requirements of Title 37, Chapter 114 of the Administrative Rules of Montana pertaining to communicable disease control;

WHEREAS, a significant portion of the population of Gallatin County is at risk of serious health complications, including death, from COVID-19;

WHEREAS, a large surge in the number of persons with serious infections will compromise the ability of the regional healthcare system to deliver necessary healthcare to the public;

WHEREAS, this Order will help preserve critical and limited healthcare capacity in Gallatin County by reducing the spread of COVID-19 among those who test positive for the virus;

WHEREAS, the spread of COVID-19 constitutes a public health emergency and poses an imminent threat to the public health and, consequently, actions must be taken to avert and minimize the outbreak of this communicable disease; and

WHEREAS, the requirements of this Order are reasonable and necessary to address public health needs, specifically to maintain health and to control and prevent the spread of a contagious and infectious disease throughout Gallatin County.

NOW, THEREFORE, EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY, IT HEREBY IS ORDERED as follows:

ISOLATION

1. All individuals who test positive for COVID-19 shall enter and remain in isolation as follows:
 - A. All such persons SHALL NOT LEAVE THEIR HOME OR RECOVERY FACILITY, except to receive medical care or except to attend or operate a religious facility, church, synagogue, or other place of worship.
 - B. All such persons may discontinue isolation only upon being released from isolation by Gallatin City-County Health Department staff using current guidelines from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

CONDITIONS OF ISOLATION

All individuals in isolation must:

1. As much as possible, keep separated from other people and from animals.
2. Stay in a separate “sick room,” if possible.
3. Use a separate bathroom, if available.
4. Clean and disinfect all “high-touch” surfaces daily. “High-touch” surfaces include phones, remote controls, counters, tabletops, doorknobs, bathroom fixtures, toilets, keyboards, tablets, and bedside tables.
5. Cover coughs and sneezes, and wash hands often.
6. Avoid sharing personal household items, such as towels and kitchen utensils.
7. If something is required that is available from an essential business, such as food, obtain the item by delivery or from others who are not in isolation and in a manner that does not require face-to-face contact with others or entry into the isolation location.
8. If symptoms worsen, contact a health care provider as frequently as necessary to determine if the disease is progressing and additional care is needed. Except for emergencies, call a physician or health clinic first before visiting.
9. If attending a medical appointment, avoid public transportation and wear a face covering.
10. If attending or operating a religious facility, church, synagogue, or other place of worship, avoid public transportation and wear a face covering.

Violations of this Order shall be enforced pursuant to §§ 50-2-123 and 50-2-124, MCA.

THIS HEALTH OFFICER ORDER shall remain in effect until further notice.

GALLATIN CITY-COUNTY HEALTH OFFICER



Lori Christenson

8/19/21

Date

ATTEST:



Eric Semerad, Clerk & Recorder



THE SEAL OF GALLATIN COUNTY
STATE OF MONTANA