



**Order of the Madison County Board of Public Health
Lodging Restriction Order
7 Placer Loop, Virginia City, MT 59755
April 10, 2020**



Whereas, the World Health Organization has declared the outbreak of COVID-19 to be a pandemic, and President Trump, Governor Bullock, and the Madison County Board of Commissioners have each declared that a State of Emergency currently exists due to COVID-19;

Whereas, multiple COVID-19 cases have been confirmed in Madison County;

Whereas, Madison County ordinarily attracts a substantial amount of tourism, some of which comes from regions with a higher concentration of confirmed COVID-19 cases than currently exists in Madison County;

Whereas, COVID-19 is easily spread from person to person and can easily spread from region to region when individuals travel;

Whereas, the Madison County Board of Health has previously ordered that all travel should be limited to Essential Travel and travel for Essential Activities;

Whereas, COVID-19's ability to survive on surfaces for long periods of time, as well as its ability to infect individuals without causing obvious symptoms, creates an increased risk that persons sheltering in place in lodging facilities for nonessential purposes will spread COVID-19 to other customers and/or staff;

Whereas, it does not appear reasonably plausible that the COVID-19 emergency will be fully abated prior to April 30, 2020; and

Whereas, the Madison County Board of Health has the authority and responsibility to "protect the public from the introduction and spread of communicable disease or other conditions of public health importance" and "adopt regulations...for the control of communicable disease,"

under § 50-2-116(1)(g) & (2)(c)(i), MCA; and to “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 canceling events,” and adopt “quarantine and isolation measures” under § 50-2-118(2) & (4), MCA;

The following is hereby ordered:

1. The Board adopts the above as findings of fact; and further incorporates the findings of fact made in its April 1, 2020 Order.
2. All motels, hotels, guest ranches, RV sites, camping, short term rentals (defined as any residential property which rents or leases to guests for periods of less than 30 days), and guiding and outfitting services and associated lodging are ordered to cancel any reservations which begin on or before April 30, 2020, and not to accept new reservations or walk-in customers for periods beginning on or before April 30, 2020, except for Essential Purposes.
3. “Essential Purposes” include rentals or lodging for any or all of the following reasons:
 - a. Federal, State or Local government officials, or others defined by federal and state guidance as essential workers, who are traveling or temporarily residing for work purposes;
 - b. Any personnel responding to the COVID-19 emergency;
 - c. Family members of any persons seeking medical treatment in Madison County or adjacent counties, whether or not such treatment is related to COVID-19;
 - d. Any individuals who are displaced as a result of domestic violence, whether or not charges have been formally filed;
 - e. Individuals who have been advised by medical personnel and/or public health officials to quarantine outside of their home, provided that the business is informed of the need to quarantine and is able to take sufficient precautions (including social distancing and sanitizing surfaces) to protect staff and other guests.
4. This order does not mandate any refund, rescheduling, or cancellation policies, which may be made at the discretion of the impacted businesses.

5. This order is effective immediately upon adoption and shall expire either on April 30, 2020, or upon the expiration of the State of Montana’s stay at home order, whichever occurs later. The Board may modify the expiration date as further information is received. Individuals who are currently staying at such businesses for nonessential purposes may be given a reasonable amount of time, not to exceed 48 hours, to vacate the premises.

6. Any violations of this order may be prosecuted as a misdemeanor under § 50-2-124, MCA, which provides for a fine of not less than \$10 or more than \$200 for each day that a violation occurs.

APPROVED BY THE MADISON COUNTY BOARD OF PUBLIC HEALTH THIS NINTH DAY OF APRIL, 2020.

Madison County Board of Health - Chair

Madison County Board of Health – Health Officer

ATTEST: _____
Clerk and Recorder