



**NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

June 12th, 2020

Media Contact: Blake Leavitt Mayor

(406) 682-4287 (o)

(406) 682-5011 (f)

blakel@ennismontana.org

Cancellation of 4th of July Parade in Ennis

On June 11th, 2020 the Mayor of Ennis made the difficult decision not to approve the permit for the Ennis 4th of July parade.

The number one priority for the Town of Ennis is the health and safety of our residents, employees and visitors. Many community partners and organizations have cancelled or postponed events that coincide with the parade over concerns for their members, due to the inability to effectively enforce social distancing. Currently, rural communities such as Ennis, with low Covid-19 cases have an advantage in keeping the virus at bay due to our geography and low population density. By hosting an event which may bring thousands of people to our community, we would be giving up this advantage by allowing the virus greater potential to spread. Also taken into consideration was that the event would be in direct conflict with Governor Bullock's Plan of Reopening the Big Sky Phase 2, which recommends cancelling events with over 50 people in attendance.

While acknowledging the economic boon the parade represents, it is superseded by the long term economic and public health risks. The Town of Ennis is concerned about keeping our residents, businesses and guests as safe as possible and healthy. We look forward to future events which promote and celebrate Ennis. Thank you.