



PRESS RELEASE

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Madison County Public Health COVID-19 Update

On July 2, 2020, Melissa Brummell, RN, Public Health Director advises that Madison County Public Health Department confirmed Madison County has three new positive COVID-19 cases making 11 positive cases, which includes one death earlier this year. The new coronavirus cases include one female in her 30's and a male and female both in their 50's. All of the individuals in close contact with the new cases have been notified and are on a 14-day home quarantine. Brummell, also stressed that "No" personal information concerning the location of the new cases may be disclosed due to the individual's right to privacy and protective health information.

In addition, the State of Montana reported today 67 new positive cases making 1083 including 22 deaths as of the time of this press release.

On Tuesday, June 30, 2020, Madison County Board of Health held a Special COVID-19 meeting. After discussion and public comment, the Board of Health voted and approved the following Plans submitted to the Public Health Department:

- ✚ Madison County 4-H-August 12 – 16
- ✚ Madison County Fair Ranch Rodeo/Arena-August 14
- ✚ Ennis 4th of July Rodeo-July 3 – 4

Again, the Board of Health stresses that organizers are "*required*" to submit a Plan to the Public Health Department prior to holding group events larger than 50 people. The Public Health Department will respond within 10 business days of receiving the Plan. An on-line application is available on the Public Health Department's website: <https://madisoncountymt.gov/230/Public-Health>.

Organizers of group events over 50 that do not submit a Plan may be subject to fines and/or penalties. Van Puckett, Sanitarian stated, "His office prefers education over fines or penalties and stressed the need for everyone to follow the Board of Health's recommendations." In addition, he advised anyone with questions concerning business licensures and sanitation should contact his office at 406.843.4275 for assistance.

In addition, depending upon planning elements such as number of attendees, Plans submitted to the Public Health Department may require the approval of the Board of Health. To assist with timely plan review, the Madison County Board of Health has scheduled a "special meeting" to review the selected plans. In addition, items reviewed will include Governor Bullock's phased plan and the state of COVID-19 in Madison County. The meeting will be held via computer/phone on July 9, 2020, beginning at 4:30 p.m. The agenda will be posted prior on the Madison County website: <https://madisoncountymt.gov/>.

Brummell reported that the Public Health Department is working on a COVID-19 Surveillance Testing program that will be held locally in July with assistance from the area communities.

The Board of Health continues to support the Executive Orders by Governor Bullock including the Phase 2 Plan. Local officials should continue to assess the conditions in their jurisdictions and public health authorities may adopt more restrictive approaches based on local need. No tighter restrictions were adopted by the Madison County Board of Health but may be adopted at any time.

In addition, the Board stressed that the public should continue to limit face-to-face contact with others, as it is the best way to reduce the spread of coronavirus disease. The Board also “*strongly*” encourages voluntary use of facemasks when going out in the public and be considerate of others.

In light of recent findings, and new evidence the CDC recommends individuals to wear facemasks or cloth face coverings in public settings where it is hard to practice social distancing etiquette — and that is why it is also recommended that you and your family members consider making it a part of your daily routine.

Facemasks can also prevent you from touching your face, and can be a visual reminder to practice social distancing. When venturing out to the grocery store, pharmacy or hospital, it is wise to wear one.

The following people should NOT wear a facemask, according to the CDC:

- ✚ Children under age 2
- ✚ Anyone who has trouble breathing
- ✚ Anyone who is unconscious, incapacitated or cannot remove a facemask without help

Please remember, even with wearing a facemask, you should still be taking this pandemic very seriously, practicing social distancing and doing your part to help flatten the curve.

CDC experts say recent studies show that a “significant portion” of individuals who have the coronavirus do not have any symptoms (in other words, they are “asymptomatic”). Also, those who eventually develop symptoms (or those who are “pre-symptomatic”) can spread the virus to others before they show any symptoms.

The coronavirus can spread among people who are less than 6 feet apart, whether that is by talking to one another, coughing or sneezing. This holds true even if none of those people notice symptoms commonly reported with COVID-19, like fever, shortness of breath or coughing.

In addition, to everyday steps to prevent COVID-19, keeping space between you and others is one of the best tools to avoid being exposed to this virus and slowing its spread locally and across the country and world.

Limit close contact with others outside of your household whether you are in an indoor or outdoor space. Since people can spread the virus before they know they are sick, it is important to stay away from others when possible, even if you—or others—have no symptoms. Social distancing is especially important for people who are at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19.

The Board of Health encourages everyone to follow Governor Bullock’s plan to re-open the state gradually through a three-phase process. We all need to do our part for the greater good of our community.

The Madison County Public Health Department is available during normal business hours to answer questions about COVID-19 by phone at 406.843.4295. For additional information concerning COVID-19, visit the Public Health website: <https://madisoncountymt.gov/230/Public-Health>

Your healthcare professional will work with the local public health department and the CDC to determine if you need to be tested for COVID-19. Refer to the CDC website: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html> for additional information.

