



PRESS RELEASE

August 19, 2020

Melissa Brummell, RN, Director of Public Health
Department of Public Health
7 Placer Loop, Virginia City, MT 59755
Office: 406.843.4295

Bonnie O'Neill, MS
Public Information Officer
Madison County
103 W Wallace St. PO Box 278
Virginia City, MT 59755
Commissioners' Office 406.843.4277

Madison County Public Health COVID-19 Update

On Tuesday, August 18, 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 Public Health Department to no longer accept Event Plans for events over 50 or 200. However, schools and sporting events were excluded from this approved motion. Events over 50 people in Madison County will not be allowed due to the risk of contracting and/or spreading COVID-19. Those events that were previously approved by the health department will be allowed to continue as planned.

The next Special COVID-19 Board of Health meeting is scheduled for September 1, 2020. The meeting will be held via computer/phone beginning at 5:30 p.m. The agenda will be posted prior on the Madison County website: <https://madisoncountymt.gov/>

The Board of Health continues to support the Executive Orders by Governor Bullock including the July 15, 2020, Directive implementing Executive Orders 2-2020 and 3-2020 and providing for the mandatory use of face coverings in certain settings. 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.

Businesses, schools and the public are strongly encouraged to monitor the daily active case map to find out if Madison County has 4 or more active cases in order to mask up in compliance with Governor Bullocks mask mandate. The COVID-19 case map can be located by going to the following website that updates daily at 10:00 a.m.: <https://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/cdepi/diseases/coronavirusmt/demographics>

The Board stressed that the public should continue to limit face-to-face contact with others and wear a mask or face covering, as it is the best way to reduce the spread of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).

In addition, Melissa Brummell, RN, Public Health Director advised that the fall and winter season will bring a new concern, influenza (flu), into Madison County. It will be extremely important to vaccinate this upcoming flu season to decrease the amount of flu virus that is circulating. Everyone who is eligible to receive the influenza vaccine should receive it, and it can be administered to anyone 6 months of age or older. You can make an appointment through your local medical provider, pharmacy or public health department once they receive the vaccinations.

While seasonal flu viruses are detected year-round in the United States, flu viruses are most common during the fall and winter. The exact timing and duration of flu seasons can vary, but activity often begins to increase in October. Most of the time flu activity peaks between December and February, although activity can last as late as May.

Brummell indicated that the Public Health Department will start receiving influenza vaccines within the next month and start the process for vaccinating schools and community members. Additional information will be available on the Public Health Department's Homepage at: <https://madisoncountymt.gov/230/Public-Health>

The Madison County 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>

You may also contact the Madison County Sanitarian Department at 406.843.4275 for additional information relating to business licensures and sanitation.

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.

Madison County Public Health Department Mission:

To protect and promote the health and safety of county residents through the efforts of dedicated and skilled professionals applying sound preventative principles.

