

**ORDER OF DAWSON COUNTY  
BOARD OF HEALTH**

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

WHEREAS, as of March 19, 2020, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) indicates there are over 10,442 cases and 152 deaths in the United States;

WHEREAS, all states in the United States are experiencing confirmed cases of COVID-19;

WHEREAS, the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) recognizes COVID-19 as a threat to the residents of Montana;

WHEREAS, the Dawson County Unified Health Command has activated response plans and protocols to prepare for cases of COVID-19 in Dawson County;

WHEREAS, the Dawson County Unified Health Command has also worked to identify, contact, and test individuals in Dawson County who have been potentially exposed to COVID-19 in coordination with the State of Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services and the CDC;

WHEREAS, proactively implementing mitigation and containment measures to slow the spread of the virus is in the best interests of Dawson County and its people;

WHEREAS, COVID-19, a respiratory disease that can result in serious illness or death and is a new strain of Coronavirus that had not been previously identified in humans and can easily spread from person-to-person;

WHEREAS, the CDC identifies the potential public health threat posed by COVID-19 both globally and in the United States as "high" and has advised that person-to-person spread of the COVID-19 will continue to occur globally, including within the United States, Montana, and Dawson County;

WHEREAS, the circumstances of this outbreak may exceed the capacity of the services, personnel, equipment, supplies and facilities of Dawson County;

WHEREAS, based upon all of the above, the Governor of the State of Montana, in consultation with public health authorities, has ordered the closure of businesses in the state, **effective as of 8 p.m. Friday March 20, 2020**, where people congregate, such as bars, coffee shops, gyms, theaters and more, in an attempt to slow the spread of the coronavirus in the state.

WHEREAS, the County of Dawson's Board of Health has the duty to protect the public from the introduction and spread of communicable disease or other conditions of public health importance, including through actions to ensure the removal of filth or other contaminants that might cause disease or adversely affect public health;

WHEREAS, Dawson County 's Health Officer has determined that the potential spread of COVID-19 constitutes a public health emergency and actions must be taken to alleviate and minimize the outbreak of this communicable disease;

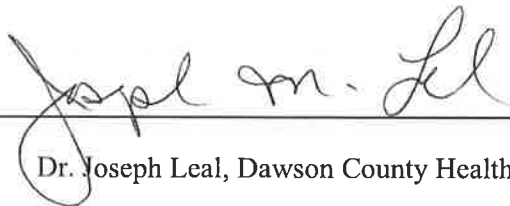
WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 50-2-118 of the Montana Code Annotated, a local health officer in carrying out the purpose of the public health system shall take steps to limit contact between people in order to protect the public health from imminent threats, including but not limited to ordering the closure of buildings or facilities where people congregate and cancelling events; and,

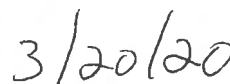
WHEREAS, the local health officer should institute his authority to close buildings and facilities to prevent the spread of COVID-19 within the County of Dawson, Montana.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, pursuant to Title 50, Chapter 2, Part 1, and specifically Section 50-2-118 of the Montana Code Annotated:

**Effective at 8 pm MST on Friday March 20, 2020 for a period of time up to and through midnight March 27, 2020:**

- **All business shall adhere closures as ordered by the Governor of Montana**
- **In order to remain open during this time, all businesses need to prohibit activities on their locations, inside and outside, that allow or promote "congregating" or gathering of people.**
- **Businesses that provide dining services should offer take-out service only.**
- **All stores, shall limit attendance to TEN (10) people, exclusive of staff, excluding grocery stores.**
- **Each business that remains open to the public must remind people to use hand sanitizer as available upon entry to the building and to keep 6 feet between customers at all times.**
- **Meetings at public meeting rooms in the county must involve ten people or fewer.**
- **All businesses need to promote social distancing.**

  
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Dr. Joseph Leal, Dawson County Health Officer

  
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Date