

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



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### **Unified Health Command Shares Phase I Re-Opening Strategies**

Glendive, Montana, April 30, 2020 –Governor Steve Bullock announced plans for Phase I re-opening last week and since then, the Unified Health Command group, which includes key leadership from Dawson County Health Department (DCHD), Disaster & Emergency Services (DES), Emergency Medical Services (EMS), and Glendive Medical Center (GMC), has been strategizing implementation plans for a slow reopening of activities.

The Dawson County Board of Health has ordered that there be no group activities in Dawson County (i.e. sporting events, camps, social gatherings). Also, during Phase 1, all County and City parks shall remain open as long as individuals utilizing the parks adhere to social distancing practices. The County and City playgrounds, tennis courts, basketball courts, skate parks, and picnic areas are closed to any use through May 31, 2020. Gyms/Pools/Hot Tubs remain closed. Movie theaters, concert halls, bowling alleys, and bingo halls shall remain closed. Timber Dempewolf, Dawson County Health Department Director all states, "Travel for non-essential purposes is still restricted during Phase 1 of reopening. If returning to Montana from out of state, a 14-day quarantine is required."

During Phase 1 of reopening in Dawson County, all vulnerable individuals should continue to follow the stay home guidance. Members of households with vulnerable residents should be aware that by returning to work or other environments where distancing is not practical, they could carry the virus back home. Precautions should be taken to isolate from vulnerable residents. Vulnerable Individuals include people over 65 years of age and/or those with serious underlying health conditions, including high blood pressure, chronic lung disease, diabetes, obesity, asthma, and those whose immune system is compromised such as by chemotherapy for cancer and other conditions requiring such therapy.

Masks are encouraged for essential employees as well as vulnerable community members. Employers should train staff on appropriate use of face coverings, including refraining from touching eyes, nose, and mouth while putting on and removing face masks. It is important to wash hands immediately after taking off facemasks and facemasks should be routinely washed depending on frequency of use. It is also encouraged to implement the use of cloth face masks by employees and older children, if possible. Cloth face coverings should not be put on babies or children under age two. Glendive Medical Center Foundation is a designated location where vulnerable community members and employers can pick up cloth masks. "We are relying heavily on sewers in town for the donations of masks and we are very grateful for the amount of masks that have been donated," states Brenda Nissley, Volunteer and COVID-19 Donation Coordinator, "the supply has been steady but we

are still in need. We have many people stopping daily for masks.” The Health Department is working on getting masks made for businesses.

To read the entire reopening plan and guidelines, please visit [www.dawsoncountymontana.com](http://www.dawsoncountymontana.com)

For up-to-date information about patient and visitor guidelines at GMC, please visit [www.gmc.org/COVID-19](http://www.gmc.org/COVID-19)

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