

EMERGENCY HEALTH RULE RELATING TO COVID-19

WHEREAS, Section 50-2-116(2)(c)(i) provides that a local board of health may adopt regulations that do not conflict with 50-50-126, Montana Code Annotated (MCA) or rules adopted by the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services;

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization has declared a pandemic from COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, an epidemic of the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) has occurred across the United States, including the State of Montana; and

WHEREAS, Governor Bullock declared an emergency within the State of Montana for COVID-19 by Executive Order on March 12, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Teton County Commission declared a Public Health Emergency in Teton County on March 23, 2020; and

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

WHEREAS, the Teton County Health Department has also worked to identify, contact and test individuals in Teton County who have been potentially exposed to COVID-19 in coordination with the State of Montana DPHHS and the CDC;

WHEREAS, proactively implementing mitigation measures to slow the spread of the virus is in the best interest on Teton 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 treat 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 Teton County.

WHEREAS, the CDC recommends to avoid spreading COVID-19 to increase social distancing to six feet in between individuals;

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

WHEREAS, based upon all of the above, on March 15, 2020, the Governor of the State of Montana, in consultation with public health authorities, has closed all non-residential public schools in Montana through March 27, 2020 and strongly recommended the limiting of all gatherings, specifically gatherings of more than 50 people;

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020, President Donald Trump recommended that, for the next 15 days, all Americans avoid groups of more then 10 people, and avoid eating and drinking at bars, restaurants, and food courts;

WHEREAS, on March 20, 2020, the Governor of the State of Montana, in consultation with public health authorities, has closed all public venues for purposes of public food or beverage service and other activities that pose an enhanced risk, in Montana through March 27, 2020 and appropriate social distancing practices of all exempt facilities and establishments;

WHEREAS, on March 24, 2020, the Governor of the State of Montana, in consultation with public health authorities, has issued an extension of closures of non-residential public schools and restriction of certain businesses from typical on-premise business by members of the public in Montana through April 10, 2020 and social distancing requirements of members of the public and other retail businesses;

WHEREAS, on March 26, 2020, the Governor of the State of Montana, in consultation with public health authorities, has directed individuals to stay at home or place of residence, practice social distancing requirements, and cease operations of non-essential businesses and operations in Montana, as outline in the directive, through April 10, 2020;

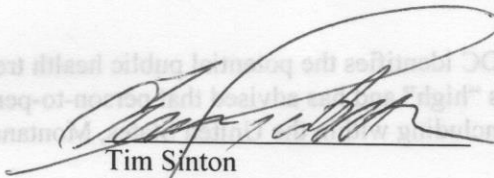
WHEREAS, to provide additional enforcement mechanisms under 50-2-124, MCA, the Teton County Board of Health desires to adopt an emergency health rule;

WHEREAS, on March 27, 2020 the Board of Health held an emergency meeting, heard testimony, and made oral findings regarding the danger presented by COVID-19;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, pursuant to Title 50, Chapter 2, Part 1, and specifically Section 50-2-116 of the Montana Code Annotated,

1. Teton County will abide by any current or future Directives issued by the Governor of Montana related to COVID-19 response.
2. Violations of this rule shall be punished pursuant to Sections 50-2-123, and 50-2-124, Montana Code Annotated.

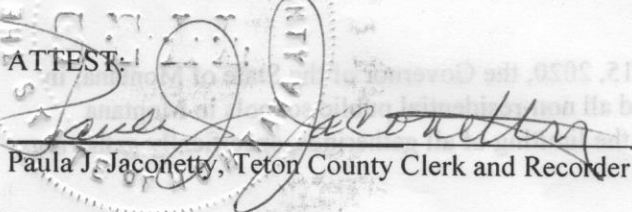
PASSED AND ADOPTED by the TETON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH this 27th day of March, 2020.



Tim Sinton

Teton County Board of Health Chair

ATTEST:



Paula J. Jaconetty, Teton County Clerk and Recorder