

**ORDER OF RICHLAND
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 27, 2020, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) indicates there are over 85,356 cases and 1,246 deaths in the United States and said statistics have been rising;

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, including Richland County;

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

WHEREAS, the Richland County Health Department has also worked to identify, contact, and test individuals in Richland 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 Richland County and its people;

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is 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 Richland County;

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

WHEREAS, based upon all of the above, on March 26, 2020, Governor Bullock issued a Directive Implementing Executive Orders 2-2020 and 3-2020 providing measures to stay at home and designating certain essential functions;

WHEREAS, the Richland County Board of Commissioners has enacted Resolution 2020-8 to address concerns regarding exposure to county employees and the public, and thus, has taken measures to regulate the hours and physical operations of county offices and departments per said resolution;

WHEREAS, the Richland County Board of Health has the duty to protect the public from the introduction and spread of communicable diseases 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, the Richland 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 the Richland County Board of Health adopting said steps;

WHEREAS, the local health officer should institute her authority to close buildings and facilities to prevent the spread of COVID-19 within the County of Richland, Montana;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 50-1-204 of the Montana Code Annotated, the department of health and human services may adopt and enforce quarantine or isolation measures to prevent the spread of communicable disease; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 50-2-120 of the Montana Code Annotated, the local health officer may request a sheriff, constable, or other peace officer to assist the health officer in carrying out the provisions of this chapter and this order.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, pursuant to Title 50, Chapter 2, Part 1, and specifically Sections 50-2-116 through 50-2-124 of the Montana Code Annotated: Sections 50-1-103 through 50-1-105, Montana Code Annotated Sections - 202, -203, and -204 M.C.A.; Executive Orders 2-2020 and 3-2020 and all other applicable provisions of state and federal law, the County Health Officer and County Board of Health shall order as follows:

Effective at 3:00 p.m. on March 30, 2020, through April 10, 2020:

- **The Richland County Board of Health orders that the terms of Governor Bullock's Directive Implementing Executive Orders 2-2020 and 3-2020 providing measures to stay at home and designating certain essential functions dated March 26, 2020, shall be implemented in full for Richland County.**
- **The local health officer requests the Sheriff's Office, Sidney Police Department, and Fairview Police Department shall assist the health officer in carrying out the provisions of this Order as required pursuant to Sections 50-2-120, 50-2-121, and 50-2-122, M.C.A.**


Jacquelyn Free, FNP, Richland County Health Officer

April 1st, 2020
Date

Shane Gorder

Shane Gorder, Richland County Commissioner

MARCH 30 2020

Date

Loren H. Young

Loren Young, Richland County Commissioner

4/2/2020

Date

Ray Trumpower

Ray Trumpower, Board of Health Member

4-1-20

Date

Melissa Boyer

Melissa Boyer, Board of Health Member

4-1-20

Date

Terry J. Meldahl

Terry Meldahl, Board of Health Member

4/1/20

Date