City-County Board of Health for Lincoln County

418 Mineral Ave
Libby, MT 59923

ORDER OF THE LINCOLN COUNTY HEALTH OFFICER
April 23, 2020

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

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, as of April 22, 2020, the United States Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) indicates there are over 828,441 cases and 46,379 deaths in the United States;

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 COVID-19 will continue to occur globally, including within the United States, Montana, and Lincoln County;

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, as of April 22, 2020, there are 442 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Montana and 14 deaths;

WHEREAS, as of April 22, 2020, there are 7 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Lincoln County and 1 death;

WHEREAS, Lincoln County has declared a state of emergency related to COVID-19;

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

WHEREAS, the population of Lincoln County includes an elevated number (>3,000) of vulnerable individuals with moderate to severe asbestos-related pulmonary disease;

WHEREAS, the circumstances of this outbreak may exceed the capacity of healthcare resources of Lincoln County, including services, personnel, equipment, and supplies located here;

WHEREAS, based on all of the above, the Governor of the State of Montana, in consultation with public health authorities, has issued directives to prohibit any number of people from congregating in certain public venues to limit opportunities for disease exposure and transmission in the state;

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WHEREAS, on April 22, 2020, the Governor of the State of Montana, in consultation with public health authorities, issued a directive providing guidance for the phased reopening of Montana and establishing conditions for Phase One;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 50-2-116(g) of the Montana Code Annotated, in order to carry out the purposes of the public health system, the City-County Board of Health for Lincoln County shall protect the public form the introduction and spread of communicable disease;

WHEREAS, the City-County Board of Health for Lincoln County has determined that the potential spread of COVID-19 constitutes an emergency and an imminent threat to public health and actions must be taken to avert 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;

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,

1) This order adopts and incorporates herein in its entirety the Governor of the State of Montana's April 22, 2020 directive providing guidance for the phased reopening of Montana and establishing conditions for Phase One; and

2) This order is in place until 11:59 p.m. on May 31, 2020 though it may be shortened, extended, or modified by future orders.

_____   _4-23-20_____
Dr. Brad Black MD   Date
Lincoln County Health Officer

_____   _23 April 2020___
Jan Ivers   Date
Chair
City-County Board of Health for Lincoln County