

November 7th, 2020



Mia Bell  
COVID Recovery Coordinator  
[Mia.bell@nrmedd.org](mailto:Mia.bell@nrmedd.org)  
406-823-9849

## Alert # 3

### Gallatin Board of Health Zoom Meeting Recap

The call included a presentation by Matt Kelley on current trends and conditions and a summary of the proposed extended and amendment for phased re-opening: Phase 2. This was followed by public comment.

#### Common Comment Themes:

- **Closure of Bars and Restaurants at 10pm (currently 12:30)** Many business owners that stressed that this restriction would have significant financial impact. Many vocalized that they could manage the 50% occupancy, but not the operating hour restriction. Disagreement about the 10pm selection – weather it was arbitrary or effective. There was consideration among the board to amend the hour to 11pm as a compromise, but the *final decision was to stick to the 10pm closing hour*. An amendment was agreed to on the limitation of 6/table to not apply to children under 18 in a family. (ex: Family of 7 with children under 18)
- **Schools Returning to in School Sessions** – Much misunderstanding and questions concerning the BOH’s jurisdiction of the schools and if the schools were waiting on direction from the Health Department. Matt clarified that the BOH could intervene if the schools and children were driving the pandemic, but that’s not indicated locally or nationally. The school board has not relinquished their control to the BOH as suggested by some commenters.
- **Enforcement of Mandates** – Majority of comments were in favor of enforcement of existing restrictions, some voicing this desire over additional restrictions. Matt responded that they need help from law enforcement, elected officials, and the community. The community can be effective with “voting with their feet”. Call business owners and let them know that you aren’t visiting their establishment because they aren’t following restrictions. A suggestion that MSU look into extending their Code of Conduct to address restriction violations by students off campus.

- **Correlation Between Restrictions and Behavioral Health/Suicide** – Matt acknowledged that COVID is weighing heavily on us all and that additional restrictions will create additional demands on behavioral health services. This is a need for more federal help.

## Local Health Rule 2020-004-C

Extension and Amendment for Phased re-opening: Phase Two

Proposed revisions include restrictions on physical group gatherings of more than 25 individuals for group events including but not limited to parties, weddings, receptions, conventions, meetings, fairs, festivals, and concerts. These restrictions would apply to indoor and outdoor events.

The changes include a number of exemptions from the group-size limitation.

### Exemptions from group-size limitations:

- K-12 schools, organized youth activities; and institutions of higher learning;
- Houses of worship;
- Retail businesses;
- Gyms, fitness studios, and indoor recreational facilities that are subject to other capacity limits within the rule;
- Construction sites;
- Food service establishments that serve a population as its sole food source;
- Government offices and operations;

Rule is intended to address events and gatherings that pose risk due to contact between people who otherwise would not be together if not for that event (meeting, party, festival, concert) being held.

Not intended as a limitation on usual and customary work in office settings or workplaces that function as the primary place of work for a business or organization.

Allows exception, subject to approval by GCCHD, for certain places of assembly that operate at 50% capacity and that can serve socially distanced groups of 6 or fewer and where the inherent nature of the event allows predictable and manageable social interactions through a structured physical layout such as museums and sit-down theaters.