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Healthy Gallatin Press Release 5/5/21
Update on Local COVID-19 Emergency Rules

On Wednesday morning, the Gallatin City-County Board of Health discussed current local emergency rules that are meant to help slow the spread of COVID-19 in Gallatin County and legislation that may make those rules unenforceable.

The two rules that remain in effect until they expire include the following:

- [Phase 2 reopening rule](#). This rule includes restrictions on public gatherings, table sizes in restaurants, table spacing and overall capacity for bars, restaurants, breweries and other licensed establishments. It also contains limits on group size for gatherings. This rule expires on May 10.
- [Face covering rule](#). This rule remains in force until May 27.

Legislation approved by the Montana Legislature and expected to be signed by Gov. Gianforte ([HB 257](#)) will prevent enforcement of these rules by the Health Department or any local government agency once that legislation is signed into law.

The Gallatin City-County Health Department will continue to strongly urge citizens to practice all of the recommendations by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that we know help slow the spread of COVID-19 in our communities. Avoid crowds when possible. Wear face coverings in public places where social distancing cannot be maintained. Stay home when you are sick. And get a free, safe, and effective COVID-19 vaccine. Vaccines are readily available in Gallatin County at multiple locations. Find options at healthygallatin.org/covid-19-vaccines.

Those with concerns about enforcement of local health rules or HB 257 should call the governor's office at 406-444-3111, or the sponsor of the legislation, Rep. Jedediah Hinkle, at 406-992-0703. The Gallatin City-County Health Department Call Center is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. for questions about COVID-19. Reach the Call Center by phone at 406-548-0123 or email at callcenter@readygallatin.com.

The most accurate local source of information remains the GCCHD [website](#). Find information on COVID 19 vaccines in Gallatin County [here](#)