

**Madison County Board of Health**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**April 09, 2020**

On Thursday, April 09, 2020, a meeting of the Madison County Board of Health came to order at 4:34 p.m. via web/phone.

Board Members in attendance were, Douglas B. Young D.V.M, Melinda Tichenor- MVMC Lab Director, Dayna Thergesen – CPNP, Molly Biehl – D.O. and Whitney Marsh – RN Ennis Schools. Also in attendance were, Melissa Brummell – MCPHD Director, Jennifer Martens - Public Health Clerk, Tracy Christensen – Public Health RN, John Moore – Ennis Chief of Police, Lisa Roberts – Town of Ennis, Van Puckett – Sanitarian, Kacey Smart – Sanitarian clerk, Phil Fortner – Madison County Sheriff, Bob Bates – Madison County Safety Coordinator, Bonnie O’Neill – Chief Administrative Officer, Joe Lazarus – Sanitarian in Training, Mark Deleray – Montana Fish Wildlife & Parks, Dillon Gallagher – Montana Board of Outfitters, Rebecca Gaylord – KBZK, Darcy Taylor – public, Allison Treloar – Madison Valley Medical Center, Mark Allen – public, Patty - public and Chris Gentry – Madison Foods.

**Coronavirus COVID – 19:**

As of now Madison County has had 8 positive cases of COVID-19.

**Coronavirus COVID-19**

**Orders for Public Health and Safety**

County Attorney Chris Christensen wrote up a draft order for the Board of Health to review in order to align our non-essential business closures with Governor Bullocks order until 04/30/20. The board will then review if necessary for an extension.

Molly Biehl made a motion to align non-essential closure order with Governor Bullock at the recommendation of County Attorney Chris Christensen effective immediately until April 30, 2020. Melinda Tichenor seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion passed unanimously.

**Ban on RV Parks, hotels, motels, short-term rentals and other lodging facilities including licensed guides and outfitters from renting or providing housing to people for non-essential purposes.**

Doug is concerned people will try to quarantine in Madison County and overload our local medical centers and cause more community spread. Dr. Molly and Dr. Dayna agree. They expressed that we already have a limited number of providers and we need to protect them from getting infected and taking them out of work. We also have limited bed space in the medical facilities.

Melissa Brummell presented a draft order from Deputy County Deputy Attorney Justin Ekwall that mirrors the Whitefish order regarding lodging closures. Doug Young made the

motion to add RV Parks to the order. Molly Biehl seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion passed unanimously. Molly Biehl made the motion to add all campgrounds to the order. Dayna Therghesen seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion passed unanimously. Doug questioned possible high penalties for noncompliance. He suggests that if fines are high enough it should deter people from disobeying the order. Sheriff Fortner said that according to the bond schedule, the recommended bond would be \$135 but the judge could reduce it during appearance in court. A mandatory appearance isn't always imposed. Most people mail in the \$135 fee.

Sheriff Fortner is also concerned about our summer homeless population. The Sheriff's department normally tries to get them to a town with a homeless shelter. Sometimes they get a hotel room overnight until they can get to those towns. Dr. Molly is afraid of the high potential of exposure with the homeless population. Sheriff Fortner wants to know if we should include this clause in the order. It was decided that if we encountered this we would try to get them to one of the current cities in Montana that have resources for this population.

The public posed some questions regarding essential workers vs non-essential. Who can be housed and who can't? Who must quarantine and for how long? The board clarified the answers to the questions posed. Doug explained that we are following US Department of Homeland Security essential worker guide ([https://www.cisa.gov/sites/default/files/publications/CISA\\_Guidance\\_on\\_the\\_Essential\\_Critical\\_Infrastructure\\_Workforce\\_Version\\_2.0\\_Updated.pdf](https://www.cisa.gov/sites/default/files/publications/CISA_Guidance_on_the_Essential_Critical_Infrastructure_Workforce_Version_2.0_Updated.pdf)) and mirroring Governor Bullock's guidelines for 14 day quarantine after travel. If a person is travelling through and this is not the end destination they can stay for 1 night only. It will be the business owner's responsibility to verify the cause of the stay and notify the tenant of the mandatory quarantine directive from Governor Bullock. Doug suggested that we provide signage for the businesses. Per Sheriff Fortner gainful employment is considered full time residency.

Mark Deleray from Fish Wildlife & Parks gave an update as to what they are doing with the public. He stated that they have officers patrolling the areas and ensuring public compliance. If they are not in compliance they are educating and having them move along. They have closed sites to overnight use and violators are being asked to leave. When they bring in out of town employees they are requiring that they complete a 14 day quarantine even though they are essential. FWP's largest challenge currently is maintaining the cleanliness of the latrines. Dillon Gallagher with the Board of Outfitters provided an update from his department. They are leaving decisions up to local authorities and public health. They are mirroring those decisions and enforcements.

The board will provide signage for local businesses regarding the closure. The Sanitarian department will handle education to local businesses and make sure they are in compliance.

Molly Biehl made a motion to approve the Lodging order with amendments effective Friday, April 10, 2020 at 12:01am until April 30, 2020. Whitney Marsh seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion passed unanimously.

Renova Hot Springs is an ongoing issue per Sheriff Fortner. He told the board the signage and having a very specific order have been helpful with enforcement. They continue to replace the signage when it has been destroyed by the public and patrol the area.

**Approval of Minutes:**

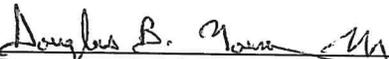
Melinda Tichenor made the motion to approve the March 12<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> 2020 meeting minutes as written. Dayna Therghesen seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion passed unanimously.

**Next meeting date:**

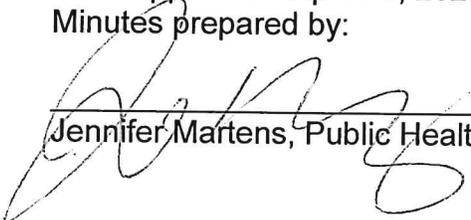
Thursday, April 23, 2020 at 4:30pm

**Meeting Adjourned:**

A motion to adjourn was made by Melinda Tichenor at 6:00 pm, Whitney Marsh second the motion, all voted Aye, and the motion was passed unanimously.

  
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Douglas B. Young, Chairman  
Madison County Board of Health

Date Approved: April 23, 2020  
Minutes prepared by:

  
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Jennifer Martens, Public Health Clerk