

## MONTANA – Back to Business Directives – COVID-19

[Updated through 11/17/20]

### Reopening Plan (Reopening the Big Sky)

<https://covid19.mt.gov/Portals/223/Documents/Reopening%20Montana%20Phase%202.pdf?ver=2020-05-20-142015-167>

### Joint Information Center, Executive Orders, and Directives

<https://covid19.mt.gov/joint-information-center>  
[Joint Information Center](#)

### COVID 19 Information Site

<https://covid19.mt.gov/>

GENERAL TOPIC	SUMMARY	PAGE #
General	<p>Montana has reopened in phases under its Reopening Plan, beginning with Phase 1 orders in April, 2020, and Phase 2 orders in June, 2020. See Appendix below for phase opening guidance.</p> <p>Additional restrictions were imposed in November, 2020, under <a href="#">11/17/20 Directive</a>. See <a href="#">Joint Information Center</a> for updates</p>	
Stay at Home - Modified	<p>Phase One: Stay at home for vulnerable individuals (65+, serious underlying health conditions, immunocompromised). “Should” practice social distancing, avoid gathering in groups of more than 10, should “minimize” nonessential travel.</p> <p>Phase Two: Vulnerable individuals should continue to adhere to stay at home guidance.</p> <p>See <a href="#">11/17/20 Directive</a>. See <a href="#">Joint Information Center</a> for updates</p>	<p>Phase 1: 4</p> <p>Phase 2: 4</p>
Gatherings	<p>Phase One: “Should avoid” gathering in groups of more than 10 in circumstances that do not allow for distancing</p> <p>Phase Two: size increased to 50.</p> <p>See <a href="#">11/17/20 Directive</a> for additional restrictions on gatherings, including reducing limits to 25. The order also urges individuals "in the strongest terms" to limit their involvement in in-person gatherings of 15 or more people, including inside private homes, and practice social distancing in gatherings of any size. See <a href="#">Joint Information Center</a> for updates</p>	<p>Phase 1: 4</p> <p>Phase 2: 4</p>

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Businesses	<p>Phase Two: All businesses may operate, provided they adhere to physical distancing, the Phase Two Guidelines, and all other Directives and guidance remaining in effect. Businesses should follow CDC sanitation protocols. Certain businesses subject to capacity limits.</p> <p>See <a href="#">11/17/20 Directive</a> for additional restrictions. See <a href="#">Joint Information Center</a> for updates</p>	<p>Phase 1:4, App A</p> <p>Phase 2: 4</p>
Restaurants, Bars	<p>Phase One: Effective 5/4/20, can open under social distancing and other protocols in accordance with State guidelines, including 50% capacity. See guidelines in Appendix A.</p> <p>Phase Two: Same as Phase One, but increase to 75%</p> <p>See <a href="#">11/17/20 Directive</a> for additional restrictions, including restrictions on hours and 50% capacity. See <a href="#">Joint Information Center</a> for updates</p>	<p>Phase 1: 5, App A</p> <p>Phase 2:4</p>
Facemask Requirements	<p>Phase One and Two: Different requirements were imposed different businesses. See Appendix A and B</p> <p>A <a href="#">7/15/20 Directive</a> required masks in all indoor spaces open to the public, for certain counties.</p> <p>A <a href="#">8/12/20 Directive</a> required masks in K-12 schools, for certain counties.</p> <p>An <a href="#">11/17/20 Directive</a> expanded the above requirements to apply to all counties, regardless of transmission level.</p>	
Travel Restrictions	<p>Phase One: "Should minimize" unnecessary travel. Quarantine in effect for certain travel.</p> <p>Phase Two: Quarantine provisions lifted 6/1/20.</p>	
Impact on Other Orders	Local ordinances are preempted to the extent they are less restrictive.	
Other	Directives also include provisions re visitors to senior living centers, places of worship, childcare, schools, etc.	
<b>APPENDIX</b>		
Guidance Applicable to All Phases	Individuals should continue to practice good hygiene by adhering the following guidelines:	See text of Phase

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Wash your hands with soap and water or use hand sanitizer, especially after touching frequently used items or surfaces.</li> <li>o Avoid touching your face.</li> <li>o Sneeze or cough into a tissue or the inside of your elbow.</li> <li>o Disinfect frequently used items and surfaces as much as possible.</li> <li>o Strongly consider using non-medical face coverings while in public, especially in circumstances that do not readily allow for appropriate physical distancing (<i>e.g.</i>, grocery/retail stores, pharmacies, public transportation).               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People who feel sick should stay at home.</li> </ul> </li> <li>o Do not go to work or school.</li> <li>o Contact and follow the advice of your medical provider.</li> <li>o Follow local health department guidance on isolation and quarantine.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Employers should:                   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Develop and implement appropriate policies, in accordance with federal, state, and local regulations and guidance, and informed by industry best practices, regarding:                       <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☑ Social distancing and protective equipment.</li> <li>☑ Temperature checks and/or symptom screening.</li> <li>☑ Testing, isolating, and contact tracing, in collaboration with public health authorities.</li> <li>☑ Sanitation.</li> <li>☑ Use and disinfection of common and high-traffic areas.</li> </ul> </li> <li>o Monitor workforce for indicative symptoms. Do not allow people with symptoms of COVID-19 to work.</li> <li>o Collaborate with public health officials when implementing policies and procedures for workforce contact tracing following an employee’s COVID-19 positive test result.</li> <li>o Encourage voluntary participation of employees in any surveillance testing designed to provide community-wide early warning by local public health officials.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>	2 order

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General Business Guidelines – Phase 1 and 2	<p><b>PHASE ONE: ALL SETTINGS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health assessments must be conducted for all employees at the beginning of each shift.</li> <li>• In establishments where customers wait in a line, non-household customers should remain physically distanced.</li> <li>• Waiting areas where adequate physical distancing cannot be maintained must be closed.</li> <li>• Customers should be encouraged to call for a reservation or an appointment, or establishments should use an online wait listing application.</li> <li>• Physical distancing of 6 feet must be maintained between non-congregate customers, this may require:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A reduction in capacity;</li> <li>• A reduction of seating in service and waiting areas;</li> <li>• Management of waiting areas and waiting lines; or</li> <li>• Systems that reduce the amount of contact time between customers and staff</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>PHASE TWO: ALL SETTINGS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Non-congregate group size has increased from 10 people to 50 people.</li> <li>• All other provisions remain the same as Phase One for general business operations</li> </ul>	Phase 1: App A
Restaurant/Bar Guidelines – Phases 1 and 2	<p><b>ALL PHASES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A specific cleaning plan must be implemented, and employees must be trained in proper sanitation practices. Materials will be available on the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) food and consumer services website.</li> <li>• All surfaces occupied must be cleaned between customers, including tables, chairs, booths, and highchairs.</li> <li>• Table items including, condiments, menus, napkins, and décor, should be removed from the table unless they can be adequately cleaned between customers.</li> <li>• Menus must be cleaned between customers.</li> <li>• Growlers and refillable or reusable containers must be cleaned prior to being refilled.</li> <li>• Gaming machines must be adequately cleaned between</li> </ul> <p><b>PHASE ONE: RESTAURANTS</b></p>	Phase 1: App A Phase 2: App A

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Capacity must be limited to 50% of normal operating capacity to allow for adequate group spacing.</li> <li>• Tables must be limited to six people per table.</li> <li>• Establishments must provide for 6 feet of physical distancing between groups and or tables by:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increasing table spacing, removing tables, or marking tables as closed;</li> <li>• Providing for a physical barrier between tables; or</li> <li>• Back-to-back booth seating provides adequate separation.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• In-house dining for quick service restaurants should remain closed, if all guidelines can't be met, including the cleaning of every table between customers.</li> <li>• Sitting or standing at bars or counters is not allowed.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In bars, drinks and food must be served to customers at a table</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Self-service buffets must be closed.</li> <li>• Drink refills are not allowed.</li> <li>• Self-service cups, straws and lids should be behind a counter and handed to customers</li> <li>• Self-service condiments should be eliminated.</li> <li>• Gaming machines that are operational must be separated by 7-foot center to center. Machines must be placed out of service if adequate spacing cannot be assured.</li> </ul> <p><b>PHASE TWO: RESTAURANTS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• See latest guidance for capacity limits.</li> <li>• Tables must be limited to 10 people per table.</li> <li>• Establishments must continue provide for physical distancing between groups and or tables but may increase capacity.</li> <li>• In-house dining for quick service restaurants should remain closed if all guidelines can't be met, including the cleaning of every table between customers</li> </ul>	
Other	<p>See Phase 2 Directive, Appendix A &amp; B, for additional guidance, including for theaters, concert venues, pools, bowling alleys, gyms and fitness studios, personal care businesses, etc.</p> <p>See <a href="#"><u>Joint Information Center</u></a> for updates.</p>	

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