

**SHERIDAN COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH ORDER 2020-1**

**COUNTYWIDE VARIANCE TO THE RESTRICTIONS MANDATED IN STATEWIDE PUBLIC HEALTH ORDER #1: THIRD CONTINUATION AND MODIFICATION OF STATEWIDE PUBLIC HEALTH ORDER CLOSING BARS, RESTAURANTS, THEATERS, GYMNASIUMS, CHILD CARE FACILITIES, K-12 SCHOOLS, COLLEGES, UNIVERSITIES, AND TRADE SCHOOLS STATEWIDE**

WHEREAS, Dr. Ian Hunter, MD serves as the Sheridan County Health Officer pursuant to Wyoming Statute § 35-1-306(a), and he is supervised by the Wyoming State Health Officer, Dr. Alexia Harrist, MD, Ph.D., pursuant to Wyoming Statute § 35-1-227.

WHEREAS, Wyoming Statute § 35-1-240(a)(i), (ii) and (iv) gives the power to the Wyoming Department of Health, through the State Health Officer, or under her direction and supervision, or through the other employees of the Wyoming Department of Health to control the causes of communicable disease; to close theaters, schools, and other public places; and to forbid gatherings of people when necessary to protect public health; and

WHEREAS, as evidenced by her signature below, Alexia Harrist, MD, Ph.D., the Wyoming State Health Officer, has reviewed and does hereby authorize the issuance of this Variance Order by Dr. Hunter, the Sheridan County Health Officer, and the State Health Officer, Dr. Alexia Harrist, also specifically makes the finding that this Order is necessary for the protection of the public health; and

WHEREAS, the State Health Officer has issued Statewide Order #1 closing bars, restaurants, theaters, gymnasiums, child care facilities, K-12 schools, colleges, universities, and trade schools statewide; and

WHEREAS, Statewide Order #1 is specifically titled: *Third Continuation and Modification, of Statewide Public Health Order #1: Closing Bars, Restaurants, Theaters, Gymnasiums, Child Care Facilities, K-12 Schools, Colleges, Universities, and Trade Schools Statewide*. Statewide Order #1 originally was to expire on April 3, 2020, however, it was extended by the First Continuation Order to April 17, 2020. The Second Continuation Order extended Statewide Order #1 to April 30, 2020. The Third Continuation Order now extends the order until May 15, 2020, and allows for a County Health Officer to request a less restrictive or more restrictive variance to the order; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 was first detected in Wuhan, China in 2019, and since then has spread throughout the world including to the United States, the State of Wyoming and Sheridan County; and

**WHEREAS, COVID-19 is a respiratory illness, transmitted through person-to-person contact or by contact with surfaces contaminated with the virus. Persons infected with COVID-19 may become symptomatic two to fourteen days after exposure. The symptoms of COVID-19 include fever, cough, and shortness of breath. In some cases, COVID-19 can result in severe disease including hospitalization, admission to an intensive care unit, and death, especially among older adults (age 65 and older) and persons with serious underlying health conditions; and**

**WHEREAS, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a worldwide pandemic as of March 11, 2020; and**

**WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared a national emergency concerning the coronavirus, specifically stating that, in "December 2019 a novel (new) coronavirus known as SARS-Co V-2 ("the virus") was first detected in Wuhan, Hubei Province, People's Republic of China, causing outbreaks of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) that has now spread globally [...] The spread of COVID-19 within our Nation's communities threatens to strain our Nation's healthcare systems [...] Additional measures [...] are needed to successfully contain and combat the virus in the United States;" and**

**WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, Wyoming Governor Mark Gordon declared a State of Emergency and Public Health Emergency in the State of Wyoming, and the State of Wyoming is experiencing a public health emergency in response to the evolving COVID-19 outbreak; and**

**WHEREAS, Governor Gordon's Declaration of a State of Emergency and Public Health Emergency directs the Wyoming Department of Health to take all appropriate and necessary actions, and that in the judgment of the Director of the Wyoming Department of Health, any actions necessary should be taken to provide aid to those locations where there is a threat or danger to public health, safety and welfare; and**

**WHEREAS, a significant number of Wyoming citizens are at risk of serious health complications, including death, from COVID-19. Although most individuals who contract COVID-19 do not become seriously ill, people with mild symptoms, and even asymptomatic people, place other vulnerable members of the public at significant risk; and**

**WHEREAS, a large number of persons with serious infections can compromise the ability of the healthcare system to deliver the necessary healthcare to the public; and**

**WHEREAS, in addition to the above findings, stopping the spread of COVID-19 includes washing hands often, practicing physical distancing by avoiding close contact with others, staying at least six feet away from someone who is ill or showing signs of**

illness, avoiding touching your faces, eyes, nose, and mouth, covering your cough or sneeze into your elbow or by using a tissue, and wearing a face covering in public; and

WHEREAS, the Wyoming Department of Health has issued data-driven decision-making metrics to inform public health orders that include the following: Number of positive cases, percent of cases attributed to community spread, percent of total tests that are positive, total reported COVID-19 hospitalizations, total reported hospital bed capacity, total ICU bed availability, daily COVID-19 testing volume, testing capacity, PPE supplies; and COVID-19 outbreaks in communal settings; and

WHEREAS, Sheridan County is a rural community with one County Hospital and one Veteran's Hospital with resources including 11 ICU rooms; and

WHEREAS, as of April 30, 2020, the number of laboratory confirmed positive cases in Sheridan County is 12 with all 12 cases having recovered, and no deaths from COVID-19. There are no laboratory confirmed active cases in Sheridan County currently, and the last COVID-19 positive test was on April 1, 2020. Sheridan County also tracks probable cases of which all 4 have recovered; and

WHEREAS, as of April 30, 2020, the State of Wyoming data show a total of 775 resulted COVID-19 tests from Sheridan County with a positive test rate of 1%. Sheridan County's rate of lab confirmed cases is 39.4 per 100,000 residents. This is in comparison to 4.5% of tests being positive within the state of Wyoming; and

WHEREAS, as of April 30, 2020 there have been no patients admitted to Sheridan Memorial Hospital or the Sheridan VA Medical Hospital with COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, testing supplies have increased in Sheridan County and there is increased capacity to test symptomatic patients, and Sheridan County is planning on increasing testing starting this week.

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT residents of Sheridan County shall comply with Statewide Order #1 (*Third Continuation and Modification, of Statewide Public Health Order #1: Closing Bars, Restaurants, Theaters, Gymnasiums, Child Care Facilities, K-12 Schools, Colleges, Universities, and Trade Schools Statewide*) with the following restrictions:

1. Restaurants, food courts, cafes, coffeehouses, bars, taverns, brew pubs, breweries, microbreweries, distillery pubs, wineries, tasting rooms, special licensees, clubs, and other places of public accommodation offering food, beverages, or alcoholic beverages for on-premises consumption may provide outdoor service with the following restrictions:

- a. All patrons of the business shall be seated at a table;
- b. Tables must be limited to groups of 6, preferably of the same household;
- c. Tables with guests must be positioned so that guests at different tables are at least 6 feet apart from each other when seated;
- d. Signage must be maintained to remind individuals from separate parties to stand at least 6 feet apart; waiting areas must have floor markers to indicate proper spacing;
- e. The owner/proprietor and staff shall assure that social distancing guidelines are maintained while customers enter and remain in the establishment;
- f. Staff shall wear face coverings at all times and perform hand hygiene between interactions with each table;
- g. Cups, lids, napkins, and straws must be handed directly to customers by staff;
- h. Staff shall avoid touching items that have been placed on the table; the table must be cleared by dedicated staff once all guests have left the table;
- i. Dedicated staff shall sanitize the area occupied by customers upon departure including tables, menus, pens, salt and pepper shakers, tables, chairs, etc., (consider the use of disposable items if necessary);
- j. The business may not operate if PPE, EPA-approved disinfectants and sanitizers, soap and other necessary cleaning supplies are not available;
- k. Hand sanitizer must be available immediately adjacent to bathrooms;
- l. Businesses shall clean and disinfect in the morning, afternoon, and evening; all tables, chairs, door handles, floors, bathrooms and any high-touch surfaces must be cleaned and disinfected.
- m. No self-serve food service or buffet options may be available unless food is pre-packaged; drink refills are not allowed in the same containers;
- n. To-go boxes, pizza boxes, paper cups, and any other paper product that touches food must be treated as food;
- o. Staff shall use gloves when handling ready-to-eat foods (including ice); gloves are not required when handling foods that have yet to be cooked;

- p. Employees must be screened for symptoms of COVID-19 or exposure to an individual with COVID-19 prior to each shift; employees with symptoms or exposure shall not be allowed to work; logs must be kept and available for inspection by the local health officer;
  - q. Self-service condiments should be eliminated unless they can be cleaned adequately in between customers;
  - r. Businesses should encourage contactless and non-signature payment; if not possible, card and payment stations must be sanitized after each use; staff shall sanitize hands between handling payment options and food containers;
  - s. Businesses must maintain a record of customer usage, by date and time, and a record of staff working hours, by date and time for purposes of COVID-19 tracing, in the event that contact tracing is necessary; if this record keeping is done manually, sanitizing measures must be taken on the instruments used for record keeping in between use;
  - t. Playgrounds in businesses must remain closed; and
  - u. All indoor dining remains prohibited.
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**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that the Sheridan County Health Officer may grant exceptions to this Order on a case by case basis after evaluating the request; and

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that this Countywide Variance to the Statewide Public Health Order # 1 shall remain in effect until such time that the Sheridan County Health Officer enters a decision to revoke or modify this variance, under the direction and supervision of the State Health Officer; and


**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that any person or legal entity that violates this Order may be subject to criminal prosecution under Wyoming Statutes §§ 35-1-105 and 35-1-106.

DATED THIS 4 DAY OF May 2020.

  
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Ian Hunter, MD  
Sheridan County Health Officer

Direction to Issue Order

I, Alexia Harrist, MD, Ph.D., the Wyoming State Health Officer, hereby state that I have reviewed the above Variance and hereby allow and direct, pursuant to Wyoming Statutes §§ 35-1-227 and 35-1-240(a)(i) and (iii), Dr. Ian Hunter, the Sheridan County Health Officer, to issue the above Variance Order in Sheridan County, Wyoming. As the State Health Officer, I specifically find that this Order is necessary for the protection of public health. I will reassess the necessity of this Order as appropriate to do so and according to accepted epidemiological and medical standards.

  
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Alexia Harrist, MD, PhD  
Wyoming State Health Officer