



## COVID-19 IMT

Contact: Carbon County COVID-19 Incident Management Team  
Maggie Karas, Lead PIO, [mkaras@beartoothbillingsclinic.org](mailto:mkaras@beartoothbillingsclinic.org), 406-446-0616  
Amy Hyfield, Deputy PIO, [amy@redlodgefire.org](mailto:amy@redlodgefire.org) 406-425-2257

News Release      FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 11, 2020

### **Carbon County COVID-19 IMT Announces Guidance for Event Planning**

RED LODGE, MT - On May 11th, the Carbon County COVID-19 Incident Management Team (IMT) announced a COVID-19 Mitigation plan review process for events. We are currently in Phase 1 of the reopening process. Gathering in groups of more than 10 people in circumstances that do not readily allow for appropriate physical distancing should be avoided. Some gatherings, including graduation parties, wedding receptions and funerals, are not recommended by the Carbon County COVID-19 IMT during this phase. The IMT is strongly encouraging any future events of over 10 people to submit the form at least two weeks in advance of their event to have their questions, concerns and mitigation plans reviewed by Public Health and the IMT for compliance with current directives. The submission form can be found on the [CarbonCountyEconomy.org](http://CarbonCountyEconomy.org) and [CarbonAlert.org](http://CarbonAlert.org) websites.

The Carbon County COVID-19 IMT understands that there can be a lot of confusion and uncertainty as we all try to adapt to the phased reopening. We also know that Carbon County residents want to keep themselves and their neighbors safe. The Incident Management Team would like to help people achieve that goal while planning for events this summer. The plan review process will enable organizers to work with Carbon County Public Health and other county officials on establishing reasonable event-specific measures that follow current best practices and orders. It is not a permit and events can still be asked to stop operation if they are found to be in violation of state and county directives. The IMT will share a list of events that have taken part in the plan review process with law enforcement and local officials to help mitigate concerns.

In Phase 2, we can begin to gather in groups of 50 and fewer; in Phase 3, there is no limit. We do not know when the state will move to Phase 2 and understand that this puts

event planners and businesses in a difficult situation. Some events and gatherings may need to postpone until later in the year. We hope that people will wait to have their celebrations until it is safe to do so. Regardless of the phase, a robust plan to allow for hand washing, sanitation, physical distancing and protecting the vulnerable will be needed. We encourage everyone to plan for the possibility of a variety of conditions, including the possibility of increased restrictions which may necessitate cancellations. Please see the Reopening the Big Sky Plan for more information. A link to the directive, plan and the updated FAQs can be found at [CarbonAlert.org](http://CarbonAlert.org) or [CarbonCountyEconomy.org](http://CarbonCountyEconomy.org).

As we establish a new norm to live with this virus, all individuals will need to take it upon themselves to be safe, regardless of the phase. This means keeping up with handwashing and coughing or sneezing into your elbow or tissue. Cleaning frequently touched surfaces. When in public (e.g., parks, outdoor recreation areas, shopping areas), maintain at least six feet of physical distance from others. Wearing a mask when physical distancing is difficult. Minimize non-essential travel and adhere to Montana guidelines regarding self-quarantine for 14 days if entering Montana from out of state/country. Please remember that right now, all vulnerable individuals should continue to follow the stay at home guidance.

Information on Carbon County's response to COVID-19 can be found at [CarbonAlert.org](http://CarbonAlert.org). Updates are also available through Carbon Alert on Facebook and Instagram. For text updates to your mobile device, text: CovidCC to: 99411. Questions can be directed to [covid19imt@co.carbon.mt.us](mailto:covid19imt@co.carbon.mt.us) or call 406-445-7258. More information on the state's response to COVID-19 can be found at [covid19.mt.gov](http://covid19.mt.gov). For general information on COVID-19, visit [cdc.gov](http://cdc.gov) or [dphhs.mt.gov](http://dphhs.mt.gov)

###