



## COVID-19 IMT

### **Guidance for Gatherings of 10 people or more Phase 1 As of May 12, 2020**

Please Wait to Gather and Celebrate!

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 reopening phase. We know that Montanans want to keep themselves and their neighbors healthy. They want to do the right thing.

Events and Gatherings-

**According to the Governor's Phase 1 Reopening Montana Plan, events (graduation parties, birthday parties, wedding receptions, and other celebrations, funerals, backyard barbeques, etc.) of over 10 people are not recommended by the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, Carbon County COVID-19 IMT and Carbon County Public Health.**

**Travel to these types of events is not considered essential travel and people from out of state should not attend unless they have finished a 14 day self quarantine in Montana.**

**Some events and gatherings may need to postpone until later in the year. We encourage people to Wait to Gather and Celebrate!**

*Frequently Asked Questions Phase 1*

*Why?*

The goal is to minimize the possibility of spreading Coronavirus from person to person by utilizing 6' physical distancing, increased sanitizing and other best practices. These types of social gatherings do not allow for appropriate physical distancing and there is too much chance for viral person to person spread and increased difficulty in contact

tracing. (We have learned this from similar social events that have taken place in other states)

*How is this different from a restaurant or bar with multiple tables?*

The assumption for restaurants, bars, etc. is that each table will be a separate unit and not interact with the other tables in the establishment. This, combined with strict sanitation of frequently touched surfaces and hand sanitation, reduces the possibility of viral spread to an acceptable level.

*Our state has very few cases, why are we so strict?*

It's true, the current risk of infection among people in Montana is low, but as the state opens up, the risk of transmission from those travelling outside of, into and throughout the state will increase. We need time to monitor the effects of the phased reopening and see what happens in our communities as a result of increased social interaction. The stay at home order and businesses reopening occurred roughly 2 weeks ago, (April 28, 2020) restaurants and bars have been open for a week (May 4, 2020). With the lag time in virus incubation, onset of symptoms and testing, we will just now start to see the possible increase in cases as a result of the stay at home order lifting and businesses opening. There will be a similar lag time before we see the effects of opening bars, restaurants and other facilities. In order to make sure that we don't need to close things down again, we need to wait to make sure we have a good handle on our ability to monitor and take care of people.

*I'm not sure if my event is allowed right now?*

If you're planning an event in the next few days, it may not be allowed. 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. Please submit your event information and we can let you know if it is ok to hold it.

*I want to have an event in June (or later in the summer), will I be able to hold it?*

We don't know. In Phase 2, gatherings of up to 50 people are allowed. 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.

*What should I do?*

It's ok to start planning your event! However, we encourage everyone to plan for the possibility of a variety of conditions, including the possibility of increased restrictions which may necessitate cancellations.

Regardless of the phase, a robust plan to allow for hand washing, sanitation, physical distancing and protecting the vulnerable will be needed. 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 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. 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.

The submission form can be found on the [CarbonCountyEconomy.org](http://CarbonCountyEconomy.org) and [CarbonAlert.org](http://CarbonAlert.org) websites. Please try to submit the form at least 2 weeks before your event so we have time to address all aspects and make a recommendation.

Who can I contact?

You will receive a reply within 2 business days.

Carbon County COVID-19 Incident Management Team

406.445.7258

[covid19imt@co.carbon.mt.us](mailto:covid19imt@co.carbon.mt.us)

[www.CarbonAlert.org](http://www.CarbonAlert.org)