

TETON DISTRICT HEALTH OFFICER PUBLIC HEALTH ORDER #20-4

**ORDER REQUIRING ALL PEOPLE WITHIN TETON COUNTY,
WYOMING, INCLUDING THE CITY OF JACKSON, WYOMING TO
LIMIT GATHERINGS TO ONLY INDIVIDUALS WITHIN THE SAME
HOUSEHOLD, WITH EXCEPTIONS**

WHEREAS, Dr. Travis Riddell, MD serves as the Teton District Health Officer pursuant to Wyoming Statute § 35-1-306(a); and

WHEREAS, Teton County and the City of Jackson have formed the Teton Health District which encompasses all of Teton County, Wyoming, including the City of Jackson, a Wyoming Municipality; and

WHEREAS, Wyoming Statute § 35-1-240(a)(i) and (iii) 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 establish, maintain and enforce isolation and quarantine, and in pursuance thereof, and for such purposes only, to exercise such physical control over property and over the persons of the people within this state as the State Health Officer may find necessary for the protection of the 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 Order by Dr. Travis Riddell, the Teton District 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, COVID-19 was first detected in Wuhan, China in 2019, and since then has spread to over 60 countries including the United States. There are 94 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Wyoming as of 12:00 p.m. on March 30, 2020, and 16 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Teton County as of 12:00 p.m. on March 30, 2020, as well as the presence of community spread in Wyoming and Teton County. It is expected that more cases will be diagnosed; 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, stating that on March 11, 2020, an individual within the State of Wyoming tested presumptive positive for COVID-19, and as of March 30, 2020, there have been 94 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Wyoming, and 16 confirmed cases in Teton County, 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 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 in Teton County 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, and covering your cough or sneeze into your elbow or by using a tissue; and

WHEREAS, Teton County is an isolated rural community with a single small hospital with limited resources including only six (6) Intensive Care Unit beds and no critical care specialists; the University of Utah healthcare system, which usually accepts the transfer of critically ill patients from Teton County, is closed to outside transfers due to the overwhelming case volume of COVID-19, and other regional referral centers are expected to take similar measures soon; and the measures in this Order are necessary to keep the situation from becoming overwhelming or unmanageable for Teton County Hospital District because of the caseload of critically ill patients with diagnoses other than COVID-19 who normally would be immediately transferred elsewhere; and

WHEREAS, Teton County, Wyoming is a tourist destination and other mountain resort communities in the Rocky Mountain region have been nuclei of infection in their respective states (Vail, CO; Park City, UT and Sun Valley/Ketchum, ID); and

WHEREAS Teton County Hospital District routinely serves patients not only from within Teton County but also from Lincoln County, WY, Sublette County, WY, Fremont County, WY, and parts of Eastern Idaho who will further stress its capacity, making it critical that Teton County take steps to slow the spread of COVID-19 infection so as not to overwhelm the local healthcare system in such a way that would result in many preventable deaths; and

WHEREAS community-wide orders that prevent gatherings in other U.S. communities appear to effectively slow viral spread when enacted early in the local outbreak; and

WHEREAS states, counties and municipalities inhabited by more than half of Americans have already enacted orders prohibiting gatherings:

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, that residents of Teton County, Wyoming, including the City of Jackson, Wyoming, shall limit gatherings to only individuals who are living in the same household, with certain exceptions as described below, in order to control the spread of COVID-19.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that persons described above may do any of the following:

1. Perform tasks essential to their health and safety, or to the health and safety of their household members or pets, including, by example and without limitation, obtaining medical supplies or medication or visiting a health care professional.
2. Care for a family member or pet in another household.
3. Obtain necessary supplies for self or household members (including, by example and without limitation, groceries, food, liquor, sporting goods, and products necessary to maintain the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of a residence).
4. Deliver necessary supplies (including, by example and without limitation, groceries, food, liquor, sporting goods, and products necessary to maintain the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of a residence).
5. Engage in outdoor activity, so long as a distance of six (6) feet is maintained between any person not in the same household.
6. Travel to and work at a place of employment, if the work cannot be done remotely from home.


Physical Distancing Requirements must be observed as often as possible when performing the above activities. Maintain at least six (6) feet of distance from other individuals, wash hands with soap and water for at least twenty seconds as frequently as possible, or use hand sanitizer, cover coughs or sneezes (into the sleeve or elbow, not hands), and regularly clean high touch surfaces. Do not shake hands.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, that the District 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 Order shall remain in effect through April 17, 2020 or until such time as the Teton District Health Officer, with State Health Officer approval, issues an Order revoking or modifying this Order; and

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

DATED THIS 30 DAY OF March, 2020.


Travis Riddell, MD
Teton District 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 Order and hereby direct, pursuant to Wyoming Statutes §§ 35-1-227 and 35-1-240(a)(i) and (iii), the Teton District Health Officer to issue the above Order, in Teton County, Wyoming, including the City of Jackson. 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.



Alexia Harrist, MD, PhD
Wyoming State Health Officer