TWENTY-SECOND CONTINUATION, AND MODIFICATION, OF STATEWIDE PUBLIC HEALTH ORDER REGARDING BARS, RESTAURANTS, THEATERS, GYMNASIUMS, CHILD CARE FACILITIES, K-12 SCHOOLS, COLLEGES, UNIVERSITIES, AND TRADE SCHOOLS

In an effort to stop the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19), the Wyoming Department of Health finds it necessary to protect the health of the public by modifying and continuing certain restrictions as outlined in this Order. Additionally, this Order implements measures in line with the White House unveiling, on April 16, 2020, of certain guidelines for Opening Up America Again - a three-phased approach beginning with State or Regional Gating Criteria and continuing through three phases of removing restrictions when there is no evidence of resurgence of the virus.

The metrics measuring outbreak progress and healthcare system capacity support the Wyoming Department of Health continuing the previous statewide public health orders through a measured and data-based approach (except Statewide Public Health Order #3 which will expire on February 28, 2021, and will not be renewed). As with previous statewide public health orders, this Order continues to authorize countywide variances to the restrictions within this Order, in the form of a Countywide Variance Order, if approved in writing by the County Health Officer and the State Health Officer.

This Order also eases several restrictions for businesses as outlined in this Order. For instance, this Order removes the requirements that businesses screen employees for COVID-19 symptoms, maintain a log of screening activity, post signage instructing patrons to remain at least 6 feet apart and not enter if they have symptoms of COVID-19, and encourage contactless and non-signature payment. This Order also removes the prohibition on buffet and self-serve dining. This Order further increases the allowable group size from 8 to 10 people as described herein. Child care providers are required to screen staff and children for symptoms of COVID-19 but are not required to maintain a log of the screening activity. Finally, this Order increases the allowable group workout class for gymnasiums from 25 to 50 participants and removes the requirement that gymnasiums assign specific lockers to individuals.

This Order is effective on March 1, 2021, and shall remain in effect through March 15, 2021, unless the Wyoming Department of Health revokes or extends this Order before March 15, 2021.

FINDINGS

1. 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 45,801 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Wyoming as of February 24, 2021, as well as the presence of community spread. It is expected that more cases will be diagnosed. There have been 671 deaths among Wyoming residents related to COVID-19.

2. 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 and persons with serious underlying health conditions. New information about the implications of this virus is ongoing.

3. The World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a worldwide pandemic as of March 11, 2020.

4. 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-CoV-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."

5. 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 the State of Wyoming is experiencing a public health emergency in response to the evolving COVID-19 outbreak.

6. 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.

7. 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 persons with COVID-19, place other vulnerable members of the public at significant risk.

8. A large number of persons with serious infections may compromise the ability of healthcare systems in Wyoming to deliver the necessary healthcare to the public.

9. Wyoming Statute § 35-1-240(a)(i), (ii), (iii), and (iv) provides all the rights and powers for the Wyoming Department of Health, through the State Health Officer, Dr. Alexia Harrist, MD, PhD, or under her directive through 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.

10. In addition to the above findings, stopping the spread of COVID-19 includes washing your hands often, practicing social 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 face, eyes, nose and mouth, covering your cough or sneeze into your elbow or by using a tissue, and by wearing a face covering when in public.

ORDER

1. As used in this order "Face Covering" means a covering made of cloth, fabric, or other soft or permeable material, without holes, that covers the nose and mouth and surrounding areas of the lower face.

2. Pursuant to Wyo. Stat. Ann. § 35-1-240(a)(i), (ii), (iii), and (iv), beginning on March 1, 2021, and continuing through March 15, 2021, unless revoked or extended by the Wyoming Department of Health before March 15, 2021, restaurants, food courts, cafes, coffeehouses, bars, taverns, brew pubs, breweries, microbreweries, distillery pubs, wineries, tasting rooms, special licensees, clubs, cigar bars, and other places of public accommodation offering food, beverages, or alcoholic beverages for on-premises consumption may provide services (indoors and outdoors) under the following restrictions, to be enforced by the business owner:

    a. All patrons shall be seated at tables or booths;

    b. Tables and booths must be limited to groups of 10, however, a business may make exceptions for groups greater than 10 if the group is solely comprised of members from the same household;

    c. Tables with patrons must be positioned such that patrons at different tables are at least 6 feet apart on all sides when seated; the requirement for patrons at different tables to be seated 6 feet apart does not apply to booths;

    d. Physical distancing guidelines must be maintained while customers enter and remain on premises;

    e. Staff that come within 6 feet of customers or other staff shall wear Face Coverings; staff shall perform hand hygiene between interactions with each table;

    f. The business shall not operate without appropriate protective equipment for staff (Face Coverings, gloves for serving and cleaning, etc.), EPA-approved disinfectants and sanitizers, soap and other necessary cleaning supplies;

    g. Hand sanitizer shall be available at the business entrance and immediately adjacent to all bathrooms;

    h. Cleaning and disinfecting shall be performed in the morning, afternoon, and evening; all tables, chairs, door handles, floors, and bathrooms, and any high-touch surfaces must be cleaned and disinfected;

    i. Employees who are ill shall not be allowed to work; employees who have been exposed to a COVID-19 positive person within the previous 14 days shall not be allowed to work;

    j. Staff shall sanitize hands between handling payment options and food containers;

k. The business shall maintain a record of staff working hours by date and time for purposes of COVID-19 contact tracing; if such recordkeeping is done manually, sanitizing measures must be taken on the instruments used for recordkeeping in between use;

l. Playgrounds at the business shall remain closed; and

m. Dances or karaoke shall not take place at the business.

3. Gymnasiums may operate in a limited capacity, only under the following restrictions, to be enforced by the owner of the facility:

a. Staff that come within 6 feet of customers or other staff shall wear Face Coverings;

b. Employees who are ill shall not be allowed to work; employees who have been exposed to a COVID-19 positive person within the previous 14 days shall not be allowed to work;

c. The business shall maintain a record of staff working hours by date and time for purposes of COVID-19 contact tracing; if such recordkeeping is done manually, sanitizing measures must be taken on the instruments used for recordkeeping in between use;

d. Locker rooms and showers may be open provided that proper cleaning is performed and physical distancing between patrons can be maintained;

e. Workout equipment must be no less than 6 feet apart (and preferably 10 feet apart), enforced by staff during operation;

f. Workout equipment shall be cleaned by staff or patrons in between each patron use;

g. Handwashing stations, or hand sanitizer, shall be readily available for all patrons;

h. Group workout classes shall be limited to 50 participants;

i. Patrons must maintain physical distancing during their workout (including while in a swimming pool);

j. Spas, steam rooms, and saunas may be open so long as appropriate physical distancing measures are maintained between patrons that are not of the same household; and

k. The business shall not operate without appropriate protective equipment for staff (Face Coverings, gloves for serving and cleaning, etc.), EPA-approved disinfectants and sanitizers, soap and other necessary cleaning supplies.

4. Movie theaters, performance theaters, opera houses, concert halls, and music halls may operate in a limited capacity, under the following restrictions to be enforced by the owner of the facility:

    a. Groups of patrons seated together must be limited to 10, however, a business may make exceptions for groups greater than 10 if the group is solely comprised of members from the same household;

    b. A 6-foot distance must be maintained between individual groups at all times, including in waiting areas and while seated in the facility, to be enforced by the business in whatever manner the business chooses;

    c. Close contact between members of different groups is prohibited before, during, and after each performance;

    d. Staff shall perform hand hygiene between interactions with each customer or party;

    e. Staff that come within 6 feet of customers or other staff shall wear a Face Covering;

    f. Employees who are ill shall not be allowed to work; employees who have been exposed to a COVID-19 positive person within the previous 14 days shall not be allowed to work;

    g. The business shall not operate without appropriate protective equipment for staff (Face Coverings, gloves for serving and cleaning, etc.), EPA-approved disinfectants and sanitizers, soap and other necessary cleaning supplies;

    h. Hand sanitizer shall be available at the entrance to the facility and immediately adjacent to the bathrooms;

    i. The facility shall be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected prior to and after each performance; all countertops, seating, armrests, door handles, floors, bathrooms, and any high-touch surfaces must be cleaned and disinfected according to CDC guidelines for cleaning;

    j. The business shall maintain a record of staff working hours by date and time for purposes of COVID-19 contact tracing; if such recordkeeping is done manually, sanitizing measures must be taken on the instruments used for recordkeeping in between use;

    k. Staff shall sanitize hands between handling payment options; and

    l. Food service must follow the provisions for restaurants in paragraph 2 above.

5. For clarity, this Order does not apply to any of the following:

a. Places of public accommodation that offer food and beverage not for on-premises consumption, including grocery stores, markets, retail stores that offer food, convenience stores, pharmacies, drug stores, and food pantries;

b. Room service in hotels;

c. Health care facilities, residential care facilities, congregate care facilities, and juvenile justice facilities;

d. Crisis shelters or similar institutions;

e. Airport concessionaires; and

f. Any emergency facilities necessary for the response to the events surrounding the public health emergency and state of emergency caused by COVID-19.

6. In order to help protect the health and safety of children, child care centers or home daycares may operate only under the following conditions:

a. The child care provider shall ensure that all people (children and providers) wash hands with soap and water upon arrival to the facility;

b. The child care provider shall ensure that staff and children are screened for symptoms of COVID-19 at the beginning of the day on arrival and may not allow any symptomatic individuals to enter the facility;

c. The business shall maintain a record of staff working hours by date and time for purposes of COVID-19 contact tracing; if such recordkeeping is done manually, sanitizing measures must be taken on the instruments used for recordkeeping in between use;

d. In the event of a confirmed case of COVID-19 within the facility, the provider shall consult with health officials on next steps; the provider shall close the facility if determined necessary by health officials;

e. The child care provider shall require individuals dropping off or picking up children to stay 6 feet away from children that the individual is not dropping off or picking up; and

f. The child care provider shall ensure that surfaces and areas that are used and touched often are cleaned and sanitized after each use (e.g. shared toys, keyboards, desks, remote controls) or at least twice a day (e.g. doorknobs, light switches, toilet handles, sink handles, countertops).

7. In addition to the measures noted above, child care centers or home daycares are required to follow all health guidelines from the CDC and Wyoming Department of Health for limiting the risk of transmission of COVID-19, to the extent possible when caring for children.

8. As child care is a critical part of the infrastructure of Wyoming, allowing essential systems to function, in the event a County Health Officer closes a child care facility under the direction and supervision of the State Health Officer, the County Health Officer shall work with local child care providers to make available limited child care services.

9. K-12 schools, colleges, universities, and trade schools may provide on-site instruction to students and allow other use of their facilities under the following conditions:

    a. Groups of students and teachers shall be limited to 50 in each separate room, however, 6 feet of separation between individuals should be maintained as much as possible;

    b. Up to 250 people may be allowed in rooms where 6 feet of separation between individuals can be maintained (including, by way of example, cafeterias, auditoriums, large classrooms);

    c. Students, teachers, and school staff shall wear Face Coverings both indoors and outdoors where 6 feet of separation between individuals cannot be maintained;

    d. The following are excepted from the requirement to wear a Face Covering:

        1. Children who are younger than three years of age;

        2. Individuals with a medical condition, mental health condition, or disability that prevents wearing a Face Covering, including an individual with a medical condition for whom wearing a Face Covering could cause harm or dangerously obstruct breathing; K-12 schools shall require documentation from the student's parent/guardian, or the student's medical provider, that the student meets this exception;

        3. Individuals who are unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove a Face Covering without assistance;

        4. Individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing while communicating with others, or individuals who are communicating with an individual who is deaf or hard of hearing, where the ability to see the mouth is essential for communication, in which case it is recommended that a face shield or alternative protection such as a plexiglass barrier be used (a face shield is a personal protective equipment device which protects the person's entire face from potentially infectious materials);

        5. Individuals who have an Individualized Education Program (IEP) under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 U.S.C. § 1414, or an accommodation under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. § 794, that would necessitate exempting the individual from wearing a Face Covering;

6. Children for whom a Face Covering may interfere with the ability to effectively participate in educational activities or may increase the risk of disease transmission because of increased hand to face contact; or

7. Individuals engaged in athletic activities.

e. Six foot spacing of students during transportation to and from the facility shall be maintained as much as practicable; Face Coverings shall be worn during transportation when six feet of separation cannot be maintained, with the exceptions listed in paragraph d above;

f. Outdoor and indoor events attended by non-students (e.g., parents, families, or members of the public), must comply with the provisions of the "Twenty-Second Continuation, and Modification, of Statewide Public Health Order #2: Regarding Gatherings of More Than Fifty (50) People";

g. Hand hygiene must be performed frequently within the facility; and

h. Individuals with symptoms of COVID-19, or exposure to an individual with COVID-19 within the last 14 days, may not attend the institution unless otherwise directed by public health officials.

10. Specific exceptions to the restrictions in this Order may be granted, at the discretion of the County Health Officer under the direction and supervision of the State Health Officer, if demonstrated, in writing, to the County Health Officer that effective cleaning and safety measures are implemented. Any specific exception under this paragraph must be approved in writing by the State Health Officer and may be modified or revoked by the County Health Officer under the supervision and direction of the State Health Officer.

11. Countywide variances to the restrictions in this Order may be granted in the form of a Countywide Variance Order if approved and signed by both the County Health Officer and the State Health Officer. Countywide Variance Orders may be less restrictive or more restrictive than the measures imposed in this Order.

12. This Order is entered in conjunction with statewide public health orders titled "Twenty-Second Continuation, and Modification, of Statewide Public Health Order #2: Regarding Gatherings of More Than Fifty (50) People", entered February 25, 2021, and "Fourth Continuation of Statewide Public Health Order #4: Requiring Face Coverings in Certain Places, with Exceptions", entered February 25, 2021.

13. This Order does not alter but supplements the requirements outlined in the two other statewide public health orders.

As the State Health Officer, I specifically deem this Order necessary to protect the public health. *See* Wyo. Stat. Ann. § 35-1-240(a)(i), (ii), (iii), and (iv). I will reassess the necessity of this Order as appropriate to do so and according to accepted epidemiological and medical standards. Any person or legal entity that violates this Order shall be subject to criminal prosecution under Wyo. Stat. Ann. §§ 35-1-105 and -106.

DATED THIS 25 DAY OF February, 2021.

Alexia Harrist
Wyoming State Health Officer