



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

March 28, 2020

NOTICE

Montana “Stay Home” Order

Montana Governor Steve Bullock has issued a temporary, statewide stay-home order closing all nonessential businesses and operations to curtail the spread and requiring residents to stay home to help curtail the spread of COVID-19. The order, which goes into effect at 12:01AM on March 28, 2020, will buy time for health care workers on the frontlines and seeks to limit long term impacts to the state’s economy. The directive will be in effect through Friday, April 10 and requires all businesses and operations in Montana, except for essential businesses and operations, to stop all activities within the state. The directive also prohibits all public and private gatherings of any number of people occurring outside a household or place of residence.

Essential services and businesses will remain operational and open. Businesses deemed essential are required to comply with social distancing guidelines when possible including maintaining six feet of distance, having sanitizing products available, and designating hours of operation specifically for vulnerable populations. Under the directive, those in the state may leave their homes for essential activities, including:

- **For health and safety.** To engage in activities or perform tasks essential to their health and safety, or to the health and safety of their family or household members (including, but not limited to, pets), such as, by way of example only and without limitation, seeking emergency services, obtaining medical supplies or medication, or visiting a health care professional.
- **For necessary supplies and services.** To obtain necessary services or supplies for themselves and their family or household members, or to deliver those services or supplies to others, such as, by way of example only and without limitation, groceries and food, household consumer products, supplies they need to work from home, and products necessary to maintain the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of residences
- **For outdoor activity.** To engage in outdoor activity, provided the individuals comply with social distancing, as defined below, such as, by way

of example and without limitation, walking, hiking, running, or biking. Individuals may go to public parks and open outdoor recreation areas, including public lands in Montana provided they remain open to recreation. Montanans are discouraged from outdoor recreation activities that pose enhanced risks of injury or could otherwise stress the ability of local first responders to address the COVID-19 emergency (*e.g.*, backcountry skiing in a manner inconsistent with avalanche recommendations or in closed terrain).

- **For certain types of work.** To perform work providing essential products and services at Essential Businesses or Operations or to otherwise carry out activities specifically permitted in this Directive, including Minimum Basic Operations.
- **To take care of others.** To care for a family member, friend, or pet in another household, and to transport family members, friends, or pets as allowed by this Directive.

The order is available at

<https://covid19.mt.gov/Portals/223/Documents/Stay%20at%20Home%20Directive.pdf?ver=2020-03-26-173332-177>.

How does this impact foreign missions and their members?

Foreign missions may continue to perform essential government operations in the state of Montana. However, all foreign missions are expected to adopt strategies aimed at mitigating the spread of COVID-19, such as maximizing opportunities for their members to work from home (“telework”), applying social distancing of at least six feet, and avoiding local travel unless required for purposes of protecting health, safety, and protection of property.

When not performing those functions, foreign mission personnel and their dependents are expected to fully comply with the requirements of the Governor’s order, as well as any other applicable orders issued by local or municipal authorities.

The Department appreciates your patience and understanding as local authorities begin to implement these new restrictions.

Questions or Issues

Inquiries concerning the impacts of COVID-19 and the associated responsive effort on the operation of foreign missions in the United States should be transmitted by electronic mail to OFM-EmergencyMgt@state.gov.

Resources

- COVID-19 in Montana: <https://covid19.mt.gov/>
- CDC's Coronavirus Website: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>
- CDC's Interim Guidance for Business and Employers: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-business-response.html>
- Compilation of circular diplomatic notes and notices released by OFM concerning COVID-19: <https://www.state.gov/circular-notes-and-notices-covid-19/>
- Follow OFM on social media: Facebook.com@ofmdc and Twitter @OFM_Ambassador