



# Montana Coronavirus Closures & Restrictions

By MTPR NEWS • MAY 11, 2021

 [Share](#)  
 [Tweet](#)  
 [Email](#)*Updated 05/10/21*

As of February 12, 2021, there is no statewide mask mandate in Montana, nor limits on business hours.

Masks, social distancing and good sanitation practices are still recommended throughout the state.

Republican Montana Gov. Greg Gianforte has signed into law a policy that county officials say prevents them from enforcing emergency public health restrictions, like mask mandates.

The law prohibits local governments from making businesses follow mandates that prevent them from offering goods or services to a customer. It also curbs local governments' authority to issue fines for not following health orders.

The Gallatin City-County Board of Health decided against extending the county mask mandate and public gathering restrictions due to the new law. Health Officer Matt Kelley said it's causing widespread confusion.

"It really makes it pretty impossible for local health officials to address the pandemic in a meaningful way through rules that affect businesses," Kelley said.

Shortly after the policy became law, Health Officer Drenda Niemann announced Lewis and Clark County would no longer enforce its mask mandate, though she encouraged residents to continue wearing them indoors.

Niemann said businesses themselves can still require masks.

Gianforte also signed into law a separate policy preventing businesses and government agencies from denying people services or employment because of vaccination status. Hospital industry organizations oppose the law, saying it prevents them from maintaining a safe environment for vulnerable patients.

## Statewide directives:

**Gatherings:** "Any public gatherings or events should be managed in a way that accommodates [CDC social distancing guidelines](#)." This removes all previous capacity limits.

**Businesses:** Businesses no longer have restrictions on their capacities or hours. Per the new guidelines, they "... should make reasonable efforts to develop and implement appropriate policies based on industry best practices during this

emergency." If there are no industry best practices, Gianforte's directive points owners and managers towards "federal, state, and local regulations and guidance."

**Schools:** "Schools should make reasonable efforts to follow industry standards best practices recommended by the Center for Disease Control, the Office of Public Instruction."

**Local restrictions:**

**Blackfeet Reservation:** The Blackfeet Nation has entered the "[New Normal](#)" phase of its reopening plan. Businesses are allowed to operate at 75% capacity. Gatherings of more than 50 people must have a plan following COVID guidelines and be approved by the committee including the Safety Officer, Tribal Public Health, Incident Commander. Masks are encouraged in all public places. Residents are encouraged to continue social distancing and hygiene best practices, and to reconsider travel to areas experiencing outbreaks. [More info](#)

**Crow Reservation:** Residents are required "to stay near their place of residence as much as possible and maintain social distance." Gatherings of more than 50 people are banned if social distancing cannot be maintained. Facemasks are required and a reservation-wide curfew is in place from 9 p.m. until 6 a.m. daily. [The tribe's Facebook page](#) posts the latest COVID-19 government updates.

**Fort Belknap Indian Community:** A stay-at-home order is in effect through June 1 on the Fort Belknap reservation. There's also a curfew in place between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. Masks are mandatory and hunting and fishing are limited to tribal members living on the reservation. [More info](#)

**Fort Peck Reservation:** The Fort Peck and Assiniboine Tribes on September 29 returned to phase 1. That includes a mask mandate and puts non-essential employees, residents and businesses under stay-at-home orders on the Fort Peck reservation and limits gatherings to 10 people or fewer. [More info](#)

**Northern Cheyenne Reservation:** Residents are advised to avoid nonessential daytime travel during the week. A curfew from 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. is in effect. No restrictions on business operating hours are in place. Masks, social distancing and good hygiene practices are encouraged. Bureau of Indian Affairs police are enforcing the curfew. [More info](#)

**Federal Lands including national forests, national parks & BLM lands:** Masks are required in federal buildings and facilities. On federal lands, [masks are required where social distancing is not possible](#).

The U.S. Forest Service has a [COVID-19 FAQ](#).

The CDC has provided [specific guidance](#) on visiting parks and recreational facilities.

**State lands and state parks:** Masks are required in some state buildings and encouraged on state lands when social distancing isn't possible.

FWP posts updates on its "[COVID-19 Response and Update](#)" page.

[Montana's COVID-19 website](#) is a regularly updated source for the Montana COVID-19 information.

You can find [daily COVID-19 updates](#) from MTPR.

TAGS: [COVID-19](#) [CORONAVIRUS](#)

 Share  Tweet  Email

0 Ratings

 0.0

**Montana Public Radio Comment Policy**

Please read our [Comment Policy](#) before commenting.



Rate and comment



Join the discussion...

LOG IN WITH

OR SIGN UP WITH DISQUS



Name



Linda Flechsig • 2 months ago • edited

I visited the Billings Clinic Home Oxygen place recently, using my walker as always. The usual entrance was locked. I had to use the "Staff Entrance" instead. The staff entrance has a small, steep ramp right up to the not-easy-to-open door, so I finally got the attention of one of the employees who helped me just a bit by holding the door open. When I asked why they changed things, the woman said that it was due to the virus!!!

**For me using a walker and (I'm guessing) for many other disabled persons, using the ramp was/is a scary experience.** For my own safety, I'm determined to NOT go to the store at least until they arrange the store in a safe way so that nobody has to be terrified of falling and suffering injuries.

**This store has walkers, canes, wheelchairs for people with disabilities, and yet, the entrance to a store that is supposed to help the disabled is a hazard!!!!** They were supposed to deliver my equipment to my home the very next day, but I have yet to receive anything from this store. I, therefore, went online and ordered my supplies.

As I've said, this type of store should not be a hazard to any disabled person, and, yet, it is!!! I don't like being scared, but I WAS SCARED!!! Can someone please shut this place down until things are corrected??!!!

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share



Morganawolf • 4 months ago

OPEN THE DARN SCHOOLS!! Florida and many states have their schools open. Why are we still closed? My daughter needs to get back into school!!

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share



Ruth Baker Morganawolf • 4 months ago

Where are you that is still closed? Most were only closed a few weeks. Our local school was closed from Thanksgiving to after New Year's.

^ | v • Reply • Share



Gehugh • 5 months ago

2-13-21. The locality of Whitefish, Montana still has a mask mandate. Some other cities and other 'localities' do also. Best to check the Montana Covid-19 webpage.

^ | v • Reply • Share



Josh Burnham Gehugh • 5 months ago

Thank you. I've added it to the list. We'll continue to update it as things change.

^ | v • Reply • Share



Elizabeth • 8 months ago

Can I come in from out of state? Is there a SIP order for out of state peeps?

^ | v • Reply • Share



Scott Elizabeth • 8 months ago

Not that im aware of. you should be fine.

^ | v • Reply • Share



zrt zona Scott • 2 months ago

I would like to know Scott if you help me find out, that if I want to move from BC Canada to Montana is this possible?

Do I have to quarantine and or is it rather easy to get in through the border?

I am a US Citizen btw.

Thank you

^ | v • Reply • Share



hey you • a year ago

just a question....does anyone know if I have to self quarantine when I come back into Montana after a quick trip to Oregon...seriously quick. I'll leave on a Thursday drive 13 hours stay that night and the next and drive back on Saturday. I just have to deliver some things to a relative. I'll wear a mask the entire time and won't sit down at any restaurants. Food trucks or pick up only. Thanks.

^ | v • Reply • Share



Josh Burnham hey you • a year ago

As of June 1, the travel quarantine is no longer in effect.

^ | v • Reply • Share

Subscribe

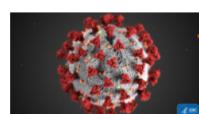
Add Disqus to your site

Do Not Sell My Data

## RELATED CONTENT

## Montana Coronavirus And COVID-19 News

By MTPR NEWS &amp; YPR NEWS • MAY 24, 2021



CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

05/24/21

How Montana's New Laws Limit Public Health Powers

Montana's Republican majority this legislative session took aim at public health officials' authority, saying they overstepped in their COVID-19 response with mask mandates and business closures. Montana Public Radio's Aaron Bolton explains the impacts of the bills that passed and those that didn't. [Read more](#)



Montana PBS



© 2021 MTPR

[Contact](#)

[Donate to MTPR](#)

[Marketing Opportunities](#)

[Privacy](#)