PARK COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH ORDER CLOSING CERTAIN PUBLIC PLACES FOR LIMITED TIME PERIOD; LIMITING GATHERINGS OF MORE THAN TEN PERSONS AND PLACING RESTRICTIONS ON RESTAURANTS AND ESTABLISHMENTS WITHIN PARK COUNTY, WYOMING

WHEREAS, Dr. Aaron Billin, M.D. serves as the Park County Health Officer pursuant to Wyo. Stat. Ann. § 35-1-305(a); and

WHEREAS, Wyo. Stat. Ann. §§ 35-1-240(a)(i) and (iv) provides all the rights and powers for the Wyoming Department of Health, through the State Health Officer, Dr. Alexia Harrist, M.D., or under her directive through other employees of the Wyoming Department of Health, to close theaters, schools, and other public places when necessary to protect the public health; and

WHEREAS, as evidenced by her signature below, Dr. Alexia Harrist, M.D., the Wyoming State Health Officer, has reviewed and directed the issuance of this Order by Dr. Billin, Park County Health Officer; and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization declared the Coronavirus as a worldwide pandemic as of March 11, 2020, and

WHEREAS, the President of the United States declared a national emergency concerning the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) on March 13, 2020, 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.” The National Emergency Declaration went on to declare that the COVID-19 outbreak in the United States constitutes a national emergency, and

WHEREAS, Mark Gordon, Governor of the State of Wyoming, declared a State of Emergency and Public Health Emergency in the State of Wyoming on March 13, 2020, 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 outbreak of the novel coronavirus as of March 11, 2020. The Declaration of a State of Emergency and Public Health Emergency directs the Director of the Wyoming Department of Health to take all appropriate and necessary actions and in the
Director's judgment any actions necessary to provide aid to those locations where there is a threat or danger to public health, safety and welfare; and

WHEREAS, it has been determined that a method to control the community spread of the coronavirus is to close certain public places; and

WHEREAS, this Order may reduce the likelihood that individuals that may have been exposed to COVID-19 will spread the virus to others, and therefore is entered to protect the health of the public. By reducing the spread of the virus, this Order will help preserve critical and limited healthcare capacity in Park County. This Order is further entered to prevent circumstances often present in public places that may exacerbate the spread of the virus such as: (1) the increased likelihood that gathering in a public place will attract people from a broader geographic area; (2) the prolonged time period in which significant numbers of people are in close proximity; (3) the difficulty in tracing exposure when many people attend a single public place; and (4) the inability to ensure that attendees follow adequate hygiene practices in public places; and

WHEREAS, implementation and limitations on public places and use of social distancing prevent initial exposure and secondary transmission to our most vulnerable populations, and are especially important for people over 60 years old and those with chronic health conditions due to the higher risk of severe illness from COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, per the new guidelines issued from the White House Government as of March 16, 2020, that with evidence of community transmission, bars, restaurants, food courts, gyms, and other indoor and outdoor venues where groups of people congregate should be closed.

WHEREAS, Gatherings of 10 people or more for social, spiritual, and recreational activities including, but not limited to, community, civic, public, leisure, faith based, or sporting events, parades, concerts, festivals, conventions, fundraisers, and similar activities will cause unnecessary spread COVID-19;

NOW THEREFORE, the following establishments are hereby closed in Park County, Wyoming:

Child Care Centers, excluding those facilities caring for children of essential personnel;
Restaurants, bars, nightclubs, saloons, taverns, tasting rooms;
Employee cafeterias;
Self-serve buffets;
Salad bars;
Unpackaged self-serve food services;
Golf clubs and country clubs;
Communal pools, hot tubs, locker rooms, saunas, steam rooms, fitness centers, gyms, conference rooms, and
Museums.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, that restaurants may remain open if the restaurant notifies the Park County Health Officer that the restaurant intends to remain open and follow these procedures:

1. Prohibit all dine-in food service, whether inside or outside the establishment and prohibition on admitting guests, patrons, customers inside the establishment.

2. Allow curbside take-out or drive-thru food service, discouraging the customer from using cash as a payment method. Staff who take cash or credit card payments shall use cleansing measures between transactions, including use of best practices issued by the Park County Environmental Health authority. Where possible, online and telephonic credit card transactions are highly encouraged (e.g. Venmo, Squarecash, Googlepay, Apple Pay and similar payment apps). Staff who handle cash or credit cards shall not be involved in the preparation, handling, or delivery of food.

3. Require employees must take food items to the curb exchange through the vehicle window.

4. For hotel restaurants, require food items to only be delivered as room service or curbside service as described above.

5. Require management shall ensure, on a daily basis, that no employee who presents symptoms of illness will be permitted to work.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED the following is prohibited in Park County, Wyoming, including all of its municipalities:

Gatherings of 10 people or more for social, spiritual, and recreational activities including, but not limited to, community, civic, public, leisure, faith based, or sporting events, parades, concerts, festivals, conventions, fundraisers, and similar activities are prohibited; and

IT IS FURTHER ORDER, that Dr. Billin, the Park County Health Officer, may grant exceptions on a case by case basis after evaluating the request; and
IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, that this Order shall remain in effect for fourteen (14) days unless the Park County Health Officer enters an Order revoking or modifying this Order before that time, under the direction and supervision of the State Health Officer; and

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


Dr. Aaron Billin
Park County Health Officer

Direction to Issue Order

I, Dr. Alexia Harrist, the Wyoming State Health Officer, hereby state that I have reviewed the above Order and hereby direct, pursuant to Wyo. Stat. Ann. §§ 35-1-227 and -240(a)(i) and (iv), the Park County Health Officer to issue the above Order Closing Public Places and Placing Restrictions on Restaurants in Park County, Wyoming. As the State Health Officer, I specifically deem this order necessary to protect the public health due to Park County being a tourist destination with multiple attractions, a ski area, and the eastern portion of Yellowstone National Park that attracts visitors from around the world. I will reassess the necessity of this order as appropriate to do so and according to accepted epidemiological and medical standards.

Dr. Alexia Harrist
Wyoming State Health Officer