## Local COVID-19 Restrictions Remain in Force

*Great Falls, MT —* Earlier this week, Governor Greg Gianforte announced that he was rescinding former Governor Bullock's Executive Orders 2-2020 and 3-2020. Governor Gianforte also issued a new Directive implementing his Executive Order 2-2021, which lifts some restrictions but leaves the mask order in place. However, the directive states that "in the interest of uniformity of laws and to prevent the spread of disease, all inconsistent local government health ordinances or orders are preempted by this Directive, *but only to the extent they are less restrictive*." That is, Governor Gianforte's directive does not supersede local health orders.

Because Cascade County has continued to sustain high numbers of new COVID-19 cases, the Board of Health elected at a January 6, 2021 regular meeting to keep the November 20, 2020 Order of Health Officer in place until the case rate of new COVID-19 infections is at or below 25 per 100,000 for four consecutive weeks.

As of January 13, 2021, the case rate in Cascade in Cascade County is 44 per 100,000.

The local restrictions that remain in place include:

- Restaurants, cafes, coffee houses, bars, casinos, gyms, movie theatres, etc. must close no later than 10:00 PM
- All businesses must require social distancing & face coverings, and must operate at 50% capacity or less
- All group gatherings, indoor or outdoor, are limited to 25 individuals where social distancing is not possible, or 50 individuals where social distancing is practiced (there are some exceptions to this rule, such as houses of worship and local school districts/school activities)

The Board of Health will reconvene this coming week on Wednesday, January 20, 2021 at 9:00 AM to review these restrictions now that Governor Gianforte has released his new directive. Details, agenda, and the link to register for this Zoom meeting can be found on the Cascade County website's calendar event.

###

*Please contact Anna Attaway at 415-590-0916 for media opportunities.*