ORDER OF HEALTH OFFICER

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization has declared the worldwide outbreak of COVID-19 Novel Coronavirus a pandemic;

WHEREAS, as of March 16, 2020, the John Hopkins Map indicates there are over 4000 cases and 69 deaths in the United States;

WHEREAS, most states in the United States are experiencing confirmed cases of COVID-19;

WHEREAS, the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS)recognizes COVID-19 as a threat to the residents of Montana;

WHEREAS, there are confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the State of Montana;

WHEREAS, the Lewis and Clark Public Health Command has activated response plans and protocols to prepare for cases of COVID-19 in Lewis and Clark County:

WHEREAS, the Lewis and Clark Public Health Command has also worked to identify, contact, and test individuals in Lewis and Clark County who have been potentially exposed to COVID-19 in coordination with the State of Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services and the CDC;

WHEREAS, proactively implementing mitigation measures to slow the spread of the virus is in the best interests of Lewis and Clark and its people;

WHEREAS, COVID-19, a respiratory disease that can result in serious illness or death and is a new strain of Coronavirus that had not been previously identified in humans and can easily spread from person-to-person;

WHEREAS, the CDC identifies the potential public health threat posed by COVID-19 both globally and in the United States as "high" and has advised that person-to-person spread of the COVID-19 will continue to occur globally, including within the United States, Montana, and Lewis and Clark County;

WHEREAS, the circumstances of this outbreak may exceed the capacity of the services, personnel, equipment, supplies and facilities of Lewis and Clark County;

WHEREAS, based upon all of the above, the Governor of the State of Montana, in consultation with public health authorities, has strongly recommended the limiting of all gatherings, specifically gatherings of more than 50 people;

WHEREAS, the City-County of Lewis and Clark Board of Health has the duty to protect the public from the introduction and spread of communicable disease or other conditions of public health importance, including through actions to ensure the removal of filth or other contaminants that might cause disease or adversely affect public health;

WHEREAS, the City-County of Lewis and Clark Board of Health has determined that the potential spread of COVID-19 constitutes a public health emergency and actions must be taken to avert and minimize the outbreak of this communicable disease and;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 50-2-118 of the Montana Code Annotated, a local health officer in carrying out the purpose of the public health system shall take steps to limit contact between people in order to protect the public health from imminent threats, including but not limited to ordering the closure of buildings or facilities where people congregate and cancelling events;

WHEREAS, the City-County Board of Health has determined that the local health officer should institute her authority to close buildings and facilities to prevent the spread of COVID-19 within the City-County of Lewis and Clark, Montana.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, pursuant to Title 50, Chapter 2, Part 1, and specifically Section 50-2-118 of the Montana Code Annotated,

All bars, breweries, distilleries, casinos, restaurants, gyms, fitness facilities, athletic centers, and workout studios, with the exception of drive-through, delivery and pick-up services within the City-County of Lewis and Clark, Montana, shall be closed to the public

effective at 6:00 a.m. Tuesday, March 17, 2020 through Monday, March 23, 2020 at 8:00 a.m. pending further notification.

Drenda Niemann
HEALTH OFFICER FOR CITY-COUNTY OF Lewis and Clark, MONTANA