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## Broadwater County Commissioners

Mike Delger ~ Darrel Folkvord ~ Debi Randolph

515 Broadway St. ▪ Townsend, MT 59644 ▪ [commissioners@co.broadwater.mt.us](mailto:commissioners@co.broadwater.mt.us)

March 8, 2021

### **Amended County Policy Requiring Face Coverings in Buildings**

The Broadwater County Commission has instructed its officers and personnel to undertake all prudent and necessary measures to ensure the continuous operation of County functions to serve the citizens in the midst of a public health emergency.

To that end, the County Commission has asked all County employees to assure their workplaces afford the public an expectation of safe workplace habits and health measures. In all of these measures, the Commission has relied upon and complied with the public health directives of the Governor of Montana, the Supreme and District Court as their orders have applied to courtroom proceedings, and the County Board of Health.

Governor Gianforte lifted the state-wide mask order on Feb. 12, 2021, leaving the issue of any mask order up to the Board of Health of each local jurisdiction. The Broadwater County Board of Health declined to order a mask mandate for the entire County. It did, however, authorize the Broadwater County Commission, the Townsend City Council, and the Townsend School District, to order a mask or other health directives as necessary to govern their employees and persons who access their facilities.

Accordingly, the County Commission provides this policy to continue its responsibility to provide a healthy public work space for its employees, citizens, and persons who access the County facilities:

Debi Randolph  
Commissioner, District 1  
[drandolph@co.broadwater.mt.us](mailto:drandolph@co.broadwater.mt.us)  
406.980.2050

Mike Delger  
Commissioner, District 2  
[mikedelger@outlook.com](mailto:mikedelger@outlook.com)  
406.521.0834

Darrel Folkvord  
Commissioner, District 3  
[dfolkvord@co.broadwater.mt.us](mailto:dfolkvord@co.broadwater.mt.us)  
406.980.1213

- County maintenance staff shall continue to conduct daily (or more frequently as needed) sanitation of work spaces and surfaces;
- County maintenance and office supervisors shall assure adequate hand sanitizer stations and supplies are available and accessible for use;
- Supervisors shall assure meeting places are set up to afford social distancing seating, utilization of plastic guards as appropriate, and spacing markings are utilized;
- Supervisors shall assure employees and the public utilize screening questions to include foreign travel, contact with COVID cases, symptom self-checks, and temperature checks where appropriate, before conducting in-person or close-contact business in the buildings;
- All persons shall wear a mask while in a County government building in situations where persons are interacting, but not requiring persons to wear a mask when working alone, socially distanced from others, or not interacting with others; and
- Employees shall follow and supervisors shall enforce quarantine and isolation measures pursuant to a suspected or confirmed COVID contact and test.

These continued health protective measures shall be utilized as consistently as possible, but may be modified as dictated by common sense and needs of the public. For example, if a person has a personal health condition which renders any of these measures impracticable, the person shall be permitted to modify their adherence accordingly.

In any meetings in which social distancing can be enjoyed, the presiding officer shall determine whether strict compliance with the mask order is necessary. In all cases where persons are speaking or communicating less than 6 feet apart, they shall utilize the mask or otherwise divert air flow as a matter of courtesy.

This policy is enacted pursuant to the Commission's authority under Mont. Code Ann. § 7-5-2101(1), and the Board of Health's authorization under § 50-2-116(1)(f), (g).

Email, phone and mail correspondence is still encouraged to conduct business if possible to reduce traffic in the Courthouse. We appreciate your patience and understanding during this challenging time. Please use the contact list below to call or email the office you have business with if you have questions.

Debi Randolph  
Commissioner, District 1  
[drandolph@co.broadwater.mt.us](mailto:drandolph@co.broadwater.mt.us)  
406.980.2050

Mike Delger  
Commissioner, District 2  
[mikedelger@outlook.com](mailto:mikedelger@outlook.com)  
406.521.0834

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Commissioner, District 3  
[dfolkvord@co.broadwater.mt.us](mailto:dfolkvord@co.broadwater.mt.us)  
406.980.1213

## *Broadwater County Commissioners*

Sincerely,

Mike Delger, Chair  
Broadwater County Board of County Commissioners

Darrel Folkvord

Debi Randolph

County Attorney- 266-9226- [cswanson@co.broadwater.mt.us](mailto:cswanson@co.broadwater.mt.us)

County Commissioners- Debi Randolph 980-2050, Darrel Folkvord- 980-1213, Mike Delger 521-0834-  
[commissioners@co.broadwater.mt.us](mailto:commissioners@co.broadwater.mt.us)

DES- 266-9250- [bwillis@co.broadwater.mt.us](mailto:bwillis@co.broadwater.mt.us)

District Court- 266-9236- [vhornsveld@mt.gov](mailto:vhornsveld@mt.gov)

Justice of the Peace- [kflynn3@mt.gov](mailto:kflynn3@mt.gov)

GIS-Planning- 266-9211- [planning@co.broadwater.mt.us](mailto:planning@co.broadwater.mt.us)

Sanitarian- 266-9209- [sanitarian@co.broadwater.mt.us](mailto:sanitarian@co.broadwater.mt.us)

Sheriffs Dept-266-3441-

Treasurer/Clerk and Recorder- 266-3445/266-3443- [treas@co.broadwater.mt.us](mailto:treas@co.broadwater.mt.us) [dellis@co.broadwater.mt.us](mailto:dellis@co.broadwater.mt.us)

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