

Incident Name: COVID-19 Jefferson County

Jefferson County Emergency Operations Center

March 23, 2020 Update

Incident Summary

- National Emergency declared 3/14/20.
- State Emergency declared 3/13/20.
- The Montana Governor has issued restrictions on certain business operations 3/20/20 (see attachments).
- County Emergency declared 3/19/20.
- Town of Whitehall Emergency declared 3/19/2020.
- County Emergency Operations Center and Emergency Operations Plan activated by the Jefferson County office of Disaster and Emergency Services on 3/16/20.
- County incident being managed under the Unified Command of Joan VanDuynhoven, Public Health Officer, and Doug Dodge, Disaster and Emergency Services Coordinator.
- County level daily operational coordination briefings are occurring, in addition to weekly planning meetings. The County Commission has a standing agenda item regarding COVID-19 on their weekly agenda.
- County Incident Management Team transitioning to full EOC activation in anticipation of an eventual confirmed case in Jefferson County.

Incident Update (new items in bold)

1. As of this release, there are no cases of COVID-19 in Jefferson County.
2. The Town of Whitehall declared a Disaster/Emergency on 3/19/2020.
3. The Montana Governor has issued a directive that restricts the functions of certain businesses such as restaurants and bars. Please see the state's website at <https://covid19.mt.gov/> for more information.
4. The Jefferson County Commission has passed an Emergency/Disaster Declaration. The declaration will allow the County access to federal funding should it become available.
5. The Jefferson County Commission has passed a resolution restricting public access to County offices and buildings. Those with County business need to call before visiting County offices for further direction from the department they would like to visit. Office phone numbers are available online at www.jeffersoncounty-mt.gov. It should be noted that physical protective measures are being taken to protect employees and the public at county facilities. These measures could impact certain functions of county departments and may lead to delays in requested services. The best way to avoid these delays is to utilize the electronic capabilities from each department.
6. The County Commission has established an online/call in platform for citizens to participate in County meetings remotely. At the designated meeting time, those wishing to participate can watch online by visiting

<https://zoom.us/join> and entering the meeting ID 671-828-8589. Citizens can also access the meeting on their phones by calling 1-312-626-6799 and entering the meeting ID 671-828-8589. Finally, citizens can also download the Zoom app for their smartphones at:

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=us.zoom.videomeetings> (android users) or <https://apps.apple.com/us/app/zoom-cloud-meetings/id546505307> (apple users).

7. The United States Small Business Administration has made Disaster Loans available to businesses impacted by the outbreak. To access these loans, business owners should apply online at: <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela/>

Incident Closures/Restrictions

- All county schools (by order of the Governor) through 3/27/20.
- Certain businesses such as restaurants and bars (by order of the Governor) through 3/27/20.
- Jefferson County is restricting access to county facilities, please call ahead prior to visiting.
- Clancy, Boulder, and Whitehall libraries – limited access, call for information.
- Most in-person meetings should be postponed until further notice – check with the agency sponsoring the meeting for updates.

Incident Contacts

COVID-19 hotline: 1-888-333-0461

COVID-19 website: <https://covid19.mt.gov/>

COVID-19 email: covid19info@mt.gov

Jefferson County Public Health: 406-225-4007

Jefferson County Disaster and Emergency Services: 406-225-4035