

WHITMAN COUNTY
Department of Public Health

COLFAX OFFICE
310 N MAIN ST STE 108
COLFAX, WA 99111
PHONE: 509-397-6280
FAX: 509-397-6239



PULLMAN OFFICE
1205 SE PRO MALL BLVD STE 203
PULLMAN, WA 99163
PHONE: 509-332-6752
FAX: 509-334-4517

Health Officer's Order No. 21-001

RE: Emergency Order Imposing Limitations on Gatherings, Imposing Social Distancing Requirements, and Imposing Mask Mandate for Whitman County

WHEREAS, on January 31, 2020, the United States Department of Health and Human Services Alex Azar declared a public health emergency for COVID-19, beginning January 27, 2020; and

WHEREAS, on February 29, 2020, Governor Jay Inslee proclaimed a state of emergency within the State of Washington due to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020 Whitman County activated its Emergency Operations Center to manage their response to the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak; and

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020 Whitman County Board of Health adopted a resolution declaring a public health emergency in Whitman County due to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, state law, RCW 70.05.070(2), (3), requires and empowers the local health officer to take such action as is necessary to maintain health and to control and prevent the spread of any contagious or infectious diseases within the jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, state regulation, WAC 246-100-036, requires the local health officer, when necessary, to institute emergency disease control and containment control measures he or she deems necessary based on his or her professional judgment; and

WHEREAS, there is evidence of increasing transmission of COVID-19 within Whitman County, especially since March 26, 2021; and

WHITMAN COUNTY
Department of Public Health

COLFAX OFFICE
310 N MAIN ST STE 108
COLFAX, WA 99111
PHONE: 509-397-6280
FAX: 509-397-6239



PULLMAN OFFICE
1205 SE PRO MALL BLVD STE 203
PULLMAN, WA 99163
PHONE: 509-332-6752
FAX: 509-334-4517

WHEREAS, scientific evidence and national public health guidance regarding strategies to slow the transmission of COVID-19 include the need to protect vulnerable members of the public from avoidable risk of serious illness or death resulting from exposure to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the age, condition, and health of a significant portion of the population of Whitman County places it at risk for serious health complications, including death from COVID-19. Although most individuals who contract COVID-19 do not become seriously ill, persons with mild symptoms and asymptomatic persons with COVID-19 may place other vulnerable members of the public at significant risk; and

WHEREAS, a large surge in the number of persons with serious infections can compromise the ability of the regional healthcare system to deliver necessary healthcare to the public; and

WHEREAS, the implementation of limitations on the size of gatherings, use of face masks, and use of social distancing decreases the risk of COVID-19 transmission, including transmission to our most vulnerable populations, and is especially important in protecting people who are over 60 years old and those with chronic health conditions due to the higher risk of severe illness and death from COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, compliance with this Order will reduce the likelihood that many individuals will be exposed to COVID-19 at a single event, and will thereby slow the spread of COVID-19 in our community; and

WHEREAS, compliance with this Order will help preserve critical and limited healthcare capacity in the County by reducing the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, compliance with this Order is issued in light of 140 recent cases of COVID-19 in Whitman County, as of March 26, 2021, and a significant and increasing number of assumed cases of community transmission occurring at a time when implementation of large-scale social distancing measures is recommended; and

WHITMAN COUNTY
Department of Public Health

COLFAX OFFICE
310 N MAIN ST STE 108
COLFAX, WA 99111
PHONE: 509-397-6280
FAX: 509-397-6239



PULLMAN OFFICE
1205 SE PRO MALL BLVD STE 203
PULLMAN, WA 99163
PHONE: 509-332-6752
FAX: 509-334-4517

WHEREAS, because social distancing measures can reduce COVID-19 transmission by decreasing the frequency and duration of social contact among persons of all ages, this Order is issued to prevent circumstances often present in large gatherings that may exacerbate the spread of COVID-19, such as: (a) the increased likelihood that large gatherings will attract people from a broad geographic area; (b) the physical environment in which large numbers of people are in close proximity and have multiple opportunities for close contact with one another that facilitates the spread of COVID-19, and; (c) the difficulty in tracing exposure and implementing traditional public health containment measures when large numbers of people attend a single event; and

WHEREAS, this Order comes after the release of substantial guidance from the Washington State Department of Health, the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention, and other public health officials throughout the United States and around the world, and upon the local health officer's close review of the circumstances now on-going in this County. The Local Health Officer will continue to assess this quickly evolving situation and may modify or extend this Order or issue additional Orders, related to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the Local Health Officer hereby finds it necessary to institute social distancing, group size limits, and masking measures within Whitman County that are more restrictive than current Phase 3 guidelines of the "Safe Start Roadmap To Recovery" to stop or slow the spread of the current surge in outbreak; and

WHEREAS, the current outbreak surge is in the City of Pullman, and this Order can be targeted to that area to control that surge,

NOW, THEREFORE, it is hereby DECLARED and ORDERED as follows:

WHITMAN COUNTY
Department of Public Health

COLFAX OFFICE
310 N MAIN ST STE 108
COLFAX, WA 99111
PHONE: 509-397-6280
FAX: 509-397-6239



PULLMAN OFFICE
1205 SE PRO MALL BLVD STE 203
PULLMAN, WA 99163
PHONE: 509-332-6752
FAX: 509-334-4517

1. Outdoor social gatherings within the city limits of Pullman, WA that are not associated with weddings, funerals, or religious services shall be limited to no more than 10 people. Masks are required to be worn unless physically unable or under 2 years old. Six-foot social distancing must be maintained.
2. All other phase 3 requirements set forth under the Governor's Proclamation 20-25.12 issued on January 11, 2021 will remain as is.

This order shall remain in effect until terminated by subsequent order.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "BB MD".

Dr. Brad Bowman, MD

Health Officer

4/2/2021

Date