



A RESOURCE FOR HEALTHY LIVING FROM THE  
GALLATIN CITY-COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

HUMAN SERVICES • 406.582.3100, [hs@gallatin.mt.gov](mailto:hs@gallatin.mt.gov)  
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH • 406.582.3120, [ehs@gallatin.mt.gov](mailto:ehs@gallatin.mt.gov)  
WIC • 406.582.3115, [wic@gallatin.mt.gov](mailto:wic@gallatin.mt.gov)

[healthygallatin.org](http://healthygallatin.org)

For immediate release: May 3, 2021

### Press Release Upcoming Board of Health Meeting

On Wednesday, May 5 at 7 AM, the Gallatin City-County Board of Health will meet to discuss current local emergency rules that are meant to help slow the spread of COVID-19 in Gallatin County and legislation that may make those rules unenforceable.

The two rules that the Board of Health will address include:

- [Phase 2 reopening rule](#) that restricts how certain businesses operate during the pandemic
- [Face covering rule](#)

The Board of Health's agenda includes recommendations to the Gallatin County Commission and Bozeman City Commission regarding extension or revisions for these rules. Under [HB 121](#), approved last month by the Montana Legislature, the Board of Health may only make recommendations to the commissions, which can then decide to accept that advice. The Board of Health meeting schedule for Wednesday had been planned to do that work.

However, last week the Legislature passed additional legislation, which is expected to be signed by Gov. Greg Gianforte, that prohibits any local government entity - whether a board of health or an elected board of commissioners at the city or county level - from adopting, extending, or enforcing any rule, ordinance, or order that impacts commerce by private businesses. That legislation, [HB 257](#), was approved by the Legislature last week with amendments suggested by Gianforte, who is expected to sign it into law.

"Lawmakers in Helena seem to have taken away local control for these decisions," said Matt Kelley, Health Officer with Gallatin City-County Health Department. "Our current assessment is that local communities lost this control and that will make it difficult, if not impossible, to adopt or enforce local rules designed to slow disease transmission."

Public comments can be submitted by emailing [BOHPublicComment@gallatin.mt.gov](mailto:BOHPublicComment@gallatin.mt.gov). The Board will accept written comments until 4 PM on Tuesday, May 4.

215 W. MENDENHALL, BOZEMAN MT 59715



To participate virtually in Wednesday's meeting, please register [here](#). Registration remains open through the meeting. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

The meeting will also be audio live streamed [here](#).

The Gallatin City-County Health Department Call Center is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. for questions about COVID-19. Reach the Call Center by phone at 406-548-0123 or email at [callcenter@readygallatin.com](mailto:callcenter@readygallatin.com).

The most accurate local source of information remains the GCCHD [website](#). Find information on COVID-19 vaccines in Gallatin County [here](#).

