



Kent H. Williams
Mayor

Press Release

March 20, 2020

As many already know, Governor Mark Gordon has endorsed a decision by the Wyoming State Health Officer to close public places for a two-week period to help slow the community spread of coronavirus (COVID-19).

It seems prudent for the City of Evanston to follow those same guidelines in a local effort to reduce the potential exposure for this concern. We urge our communities to take special precautions to protect ourselves and our families.

We realize that local impacts from this concern are serious and far reaching. We appreciate that many businesses have already taken measures to reduce this exposure. We would encourage all businesses to follow this direction from the Governor.

We would encourage our citizens to patronize our local businesses to the extent they are able in compliance with this directive.

Evanston has always been a common sense community and with that we will get through this difficult time together. Let's continue to look out for our families, our friends and our neighbors.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kent H. Williams", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Kent H. Williams
City of Evanston
Mayor

Governor Gordon's press release follows:

Governor Gordon and State Health Officer issue statewide closure order for public spaces

CHEYENNE, Wyo. – Governor Mark Gordon has endorsed a decision by the Wyoming State Health Officer to close public places for a two-week period to help slow the community spread of coronavirus (COVID-19).

The closure order extends through April 3 and includes schools, theaters, bars, nightclubs, coffee shops, employee cafeterias, self-serve buffets, salad bars, unpackaged self-serve food services, gyms, conference rooms and museums.

“This Governor has never been inclined to overstep local authority, but these are unprecedented times. It is critical that there is uniformity across the state in how social distancing measures are implemented,” Governor Mark Gordon said.

“Wyoming, like all Americans, must commit to reducing the strain on our healthcare system. These are hard measures and they will be difficult for employees and businesses alike, but they are warranted.”

Restaurants will be closed to dine-in food service, but may remain open for curbside take-out or drive-through food service. Under the order, childcare centers will be closed except for those serving essential personnel.

Dr. Alexia Harrist, state health officer and state epidemiologist with the Wyoming Department of Health, said “We realize this action will be very difficult for many of our residents. But it is an important step to help them avoid becoming ill and to help them avoid spreading COVID-19 to those who are most vulnerable. We should all work together to help keep our friends and neighbors safe.”

Wyoming currently has 18 confirmed cases of COVID-19 and the Wyoming Public Health laboratory has completed nearly 300 tests, as of March 19, 2020. Additional testing is occurring at commercial laboratories. A nationwide shortage of testing supplies is impacting Wyoming, like all states. Social distancing measures are the most effective means of slowing the spread of COVID-19, according to Dr. Harrist.

While most individuals will likely not experience serious illness related to COVID-19, older residents and people with certain health conditions put them at higher risk of developing a serious or life-threatening illness.