
Missed Public Comment**Christy Meurer** <ckmeurer@mcpsmt.org>

Wed, Sep 9, 2020 at 8:10 AM

To: javgeris@mcpsmt.org, Grace Decker <gdecker@mcpsmt.org>, Marcia Holland <meholland@mcpsmt.org>, Diane Lorenzen <dlorenzen@mcpsmt.org>, Vicki McDonald <vmcdonald@mcpsmt.org>, Koan Mercer <kmercer@mcpsmt.org>, Wilena Old Person <woldperson@mcpsmt.org>, Michael Smith <mjsmith@mcpsmt.org>, Sharon Sterbis <sssterbis@mcpsmt.org>, Jen Vogel <jvogel@mcpsmt.org>, Ann Wake <awake@mcpsmt.org>, Robert Watson <rwatson@mcpsmt.org>, publiccomment@mcpsmt.org, Kathryn Ballou <kcballou@mcps.k12.mt.us>

Hello Dr. Watson and Trustees. I was going to make public comment at last night's meeting, however Zoom froze on me and kicked me out at the moment that I needed to raise my hand. I apologize for missing the window!

I am a second grade teacher at Lewis and Clark, and I wanted to speak to the hybrid model and our plans going forward. First of all, thank you so much for acknowledging the benefits of the hybrid model. I really appreciated hearing that you recognize the lowered risk, the higher chance for catching and containing outbreaks, and the idea that it is almost possible for most classrooms to follow the Covid safety precautions under this model. I also greatly appreciated the intent to establish a schedule for the quarter. Knowing where we are headed for a chunk of time (barring getting sent home due to an infection) would be an enormous benefit to teachers and families.

As a teacher, I desperately want all of my students in class all of the time. It is so hard to only have them for two days. That said, it is abundantly clear to me that if I had all 20 students with me all the time, it would be truly impossible to keep them at least 3 feet apart and maintain all of the incredibly important handwashing and disinfecting protocols. So, while I want them back, the truth is that we're in the middle of a pandemic, and we have to put safety first. If we brought all students back, the requirements of handwashing and distancing would slow our day down significantly, and behavior management issues would intensify, creating more challenges for instructional time. And then we'd likely be sent home more often with Covid or with symptoms, creating far more disruption to our instruction and learning.

I think it is best to stay on the hybrid model for at least the quarter. I will do my best to make the very most of the time I have with students and keep us safe so that our community cases can continue to decline. Then, hopefully, we can move into having more students with us once the total cases in our community are very low.

Thank you for your time and consideration,
Christy Meurer

Return to full schedule

Kathleen Wyskiver <kmwyskiver@mcps.k12.mt.us>

Wed, Sep 9, 2020 at 9:38 AM

To: "publiccomment@mcpsmt.org" <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

My name is Katie Wyskiver, and I'm a teacher at Hellgate High School. I'd like to share my comments with the board about our return to full classes. I request that the board consider potentially different decisions for elementary/middle school, and high school. I understand the pressing need for some students to return because of child care concerns, and I understand that MCPS administration and the board are carefully considering the health of students, staff and families as well as the difficult situations that finding and funding child care can create.

I believe that the current model is working well at Hellgate, and I would prefer to stay split alphabetically for several reasons. The first is that our students generally can stay home and work on their own without the supervision that elementary and middle school students require. Second, it is easier to direct and physically contain younger students in their various spaces; high school students move about and congregate in different ways. At Hellgate for example, our courtyard is filled with students at lunch. As the weather becomes cooler and those students have to find spaces to eat inside, we will be larger groups gathering to eat. As cooler weather and the holidays approach, data suggests that we will naturally deal with illness and spread, and to continue with our current model could help mitigate those anticipated upcoming waves. If we find the absolute need to bring all students back into schools during that questionable time, it is my suggestion that we hesitate doing so at the high school level. Finally, this alphabetical split is giving me time to really and truly check in with my students. While anxiety/depression/panic can certainly manifest in younger students, I believe that our high school population is especially at risk, maybe just because they can understand the severity and scope of this pandemic more deeply than younger students. Being with them in smaller classes has allowed me to create connections- in the two weeks I was able to have individual conversations about things outside of our class with every single student on my roster. The small class size is allowing high school teachers to be sentinels for the mental health and overall well-being of our students. I'm valuing that very much about our current alphabetical split, and believe that its value would extend through the end of our semester. Our students are adept at using Google Classroom and are learning to manage their work on their own. If a handful of students needed to physically be in the school on "off days"- to access resources, lunches, etc.- I wonder if that handful of students could be brought into common spaces or credit recovery areas to work independently.

And finally, I'd request that when we're finished, the district give strong consideration to a common schedule among our three high schools, so that sharing teachers, students, resources and transportation isn't a jigsaw puzzle at every turn. Data shows that scheduling has little affect on student achievement. I love committees and taking dynamic staff perspective to create district processes, but I feel this needs a decree. Pick a schedule, meet halfway and use Sentinel's- whatever it is, we should be aligned.

Thank you for reading and for your caring consideration of our wellness and our practice.

Sincerely,
Katie Wyskiver

French teacher, Hellgate High School

Elementary School Schedule Comments

Jennifer Doherty <jc.doherty79@gmail.com>

Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 10:04 PM

To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the important decisions regarding school schedule changes. Thank you for your service on the Board during a very difficult period of time.

As a parent of two Elementary school children currently attending in the hybrid model, I urge you to be cautious and deliberate in your approach to school attendance.

First I want to share that hybrid is working. My husband and I both work full time and have to make arrangements for care on the 3 days our kids are not in-person at the school, yet I think hybrid is the healthiest and a safer option than a 5-day a week schedule. I support continuing the hybrid schedule in hopes that it will allow our schools to remain open through the school year. It's both responsible and forward-thinking.

More than anything parents need consistency so I ask that you make decisions based on the quarter. Changing child care every few weeks is difficult for the parents, kids and child care provider. Having a set schedule for a longer period of time is ideal for planning purposes and to ensure we are all committed to making schools successful.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment.

Jennifer Doherty

Get our elementary kids back to school FULL-WEEK

Jill MH Taber <jill.michal@gmail.com>
To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 11:01 AM

I am writing in support of full-week, in-person school for our elementary students at MCPS.

1) Our kids rely on school for academic learning as well as social learning. This is lost during online school and suffers when our kids only attend school two days per week.

2) Let's stop making decisions as if the worst is here. Kids are shown to be mostly safe from COVID. For the past six months, we have seen decision after decision made to benefit and "protect" everyone EXCEPT for kids. It's time that changed. Put kids first in Missoula.

Please open MCPS elementary schools full-time, full-week, in-person, NOW. Our kids need it.

Thank you.
Jill Taber

--

Jill MH Taber



Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

Back to school full-time

Matt Stivers

<mcstivers@gmail.com> To:
publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 9:24 AM

Trustees,

We support going back to school full-time. Our kids are at Rattlesnake elementary. Thanks for your prompt attention to this matter.

Matt & Sarah Stivers

MISSOULA COUNTY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

Open our schools !!

Nicole Sobczak <nikkisobczak@icloud.com>

Wed, Sep 16, 2020 at 6:02 PM

To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

I strongly disagree with this schedule . It's not fair to our kids that all the other schools In our area have opens up 5 days a week yet we haven't . I noticed the high school schedule as well . This is beyond unfair . The highschool kids don't get the chance to go back until November!!!! What is going on ? My daughter plays volleyball and since her away games are on a Thursday and the busses leave early, she misses one of her classes out of her TWO days since she goes on Thursday and Friday !!! She has reached out to teachers for help and they don't reply . I think this is a joke and they have the right to go back to school !!!

Nikki Sobczak

Sent from my iPhone

Average class size and Delay a return to every person every day at the High Schools

Adriel Shearer <ezra.shearer@gmail.com>

Thu, Sep 17, 2020 at 9:47 PM

To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

Good evening,

My father always told me, "There are lies, damn lies and statistics." The average class size number being used to help justify a return to every student every day falls into one of those three categories.

The following are statement of facts that the public has a right to know:

-HHS and SHS added a 6th class to the teaching schedule of each teacher. Many of these added classes have a significantly lower number of students than the classes that had been scheduled previously. This dramatically decreases the average number of students per class.

-Highly specialized, IB, AP, APS, STEM, and other advanced courses have very low average students further decreasing the average number of students.

-Special Education, SLP, ALC and other support and resource classes have very low average students per section. Further reducing the average number of students per section.

I believe it is extremely likely that most students will be in a class of 25-30 students if we go back to every student every day. If the board of trustees or the public is curious to see a more complete picture they can request, through public records or directly from HS building principals to see a "Grid Master Schedule" with seat counts. This will display each classroom and the total number of students in the each class.

Even if you were to believe that average the public also has a right to know the following:

-Many high school classrooms can not provide social distancing for 12-15 students, yet alone the actual average of our mainstream classes of 20-30.

-Many of our high school classrooms have tables, not desks, so students will be sitting 6-8 inches or closer to one another.

The Board of Trustees does not need to decide today what to do on November 9th. There is a world of difference that will occur between now and then. The hybrid model at the HS level is working to prevent a large scale outbreak or super spreader event. Bringing 1200 students into an enclosed space at the beginning of winter seems ill advised. To decide to do so 6 weeks prior to that date when cases are currently increasing exponentially seems unnecessary and reckless. Make a motion to sever the recommendations and reschedule the decision to move the HS to phase two until we have a fuller picture of what cases will look like.

I anticipate there will be an attempt to argue cases that are part of UM should not be considered part of our community. This is an absurd argument as we know that our community is all of us and we certainly know that MCPS students interact and socialize with our UM students. Don't be fooled by this segmentation of our community to justify a reckless decision. It also seems as if the MCCHD is not considering anyone a close contact if they were in proximity prior to the onset of symptoms. This practice dramatically reduces our positive test results as we are not testing asymptomatic people. We know this disease spreads asymptotically.

As a reminder the last confirmed case at Sentinel high school was in the building on September 11th. 11 days prior to your decision to bring back every HS student every day starting on November 9th. I urge you to table this decision until the current surge in cases can be put in its proper context.

The hybrid plan seems to be working. Let's be glad it is.

Ezra Shearer

public comment

Corinne Bassin <cjbassin@gmail.com>
To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

Fri, Sep 18, 2020 at 8:30 AM

Dear Trustees of the Board,

I am writing to you in the hopes that you will consider an option for younger students to be able to homeschool for this semester without unenrolling from the district.

I am the parent of a 1st grader and 6th grader in the district both of whom are currently using the MOA for schooling. Like most parents, I would prefer my children could return to school in person but due to our circumstances, we have made the decision to use the online option. I believe that the teachers in the MOA are working incredibly hard to make this work for the kids and see potential that my 6th grader will be able to do well in this situation for now. However, the number of synchronous meetings as well as on-line activities set out for my 1st grader just does not work for him or for our family. I am also hearing from many other parents of k-2 children in MOA the same feeling. Many of us are juggling work and facilitating multiple children across multiple grades in order to make this work. In addition, many students who have had to choose the MOA have medical conditions or 504 plans that need to be considered.

I myself, have a strong commitment to public school and have no interest in homeschooling my children indefinitely. I believe that due to the unusual nature of this school year, the desperate need of parents to juggle childcare, work, school, and multiple children, that there should be an option for younger children to be homeschooled for the first semester without having to unenroll from the district. Many of the home elementary schools are already full, and unenrolling from the district could mean losing our spot at our home school. This has long term ramifications for the child's social, emotional, and educational goals as well as the district's finances.

Please consider an option for young children to be homeschooled this semester without unenrolling from the district so they may keep their seats at their homeschool, allowing the soonest return to normalcy. Parents could keep homeschool attendance with days and hours for their young children each week and send it to their school. This needs to be considered as soon as possible as parents are already pulling their children from the district because they feel they have no other option.

Thank You,
Corinne Bassin

**MISSOULA COUNTY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**
Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

re: Back to School
Jaclyn Sundberg <jsundberg@kw.com>
 To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

Sun, Sep 20, 2020 at 7:15 PM

Hello,

My name is Jaclyn Sundberg and my husband Greg and I have two children, [REDACTED]. I commend you all for putting your best foot forward and having to pivot during this crazy time to change our education system to a hybrid model. I know it took a lot of work and effort to make this happen. I can attest that the teachers and staff are going above and beyond and are doing their best to keep it safe for all the students, as that is and should be the main concern. With that said, I believe now is the time to put forth a full-time model. We are the last of the county, maybe even state, to get our kids back full-time. I think we can all agree they are not getting a true, full education. Yet, this is not only for the well being of the students educationally it is more for their social and emotional well being during this time of uncertainty. I appreciate the caution that was taken with this original decision to start in a hybrid model, and I understand how moving forward can be daunting. What can we do to help? I know of schools that have implemented plastic dividers or shields to help maintain the spread of germs, especially within elementary students. I believe this could help the situation immensely. This is one of many ideas that I believe through parents and private sector support could be donated or completed through fundraising. What are we missing to get these kids back to school? Let's put our heads together and find a solution. Time is of the essence, and I have noticed that the date seems to keep getting pushed back. We have moved forward with sports and other extracurricular activities, so why not school? Both of my children are going to school with one group, and playing sports with another. It is absurd to think that this is not happening with most. I urge you to focus on a plan to get these children back in school full-time as soon as possible. We stand willing to help.

Thank you for your time.

Jaclyn and Greg Sundbergpublic

--

JACLYN SUNDBERG

Team Leader/CEO


kw KELLER WILLIAMS

 Mobile: 406-396-0901 | Office: 406-926-3434
 1817 South Avenue West, Suite B
 Missoula, MT 59801
 jsundberg@kw.com

 Each Office is Independently
 Owned and Operated

School schedule

Lisa castle <lisaogren@yahoo.com>
To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

Sun, Sep 20, 2020 at 3:10 PM

Hello Board of Trustees, I would like to share my thoughts about the school schedule. I know all the decisions being made for our children are not easy but I am frustrated that we have our kids only in for an essential amount of time but we are not teaching them only essential classes. I am a fan of choir and art and so on but these are not core classes for our children's education compared to math, reading and science. I have two girls in middle school and my oldest just finished a rotation of P.E. and art. Although she may have enjoyed these classes she has now not had math, science or ELA since the beginning of March. She is blessed with a brain that needs a lot of stimulation and yet her essential math class is not for another month or even two. This is a great injustice for our kid's core education. With shortened days and remote learning being at a bare minimum, our kids should only be taught the basic essential core subjects. Thank you for your time. Lisa Castle

Sent from my iPhone

School Re-Opening

Jason Schaefer <jason.d.schaefer@gmail.com>

Sun, Sep 20, 2020 at 4:39 PM

To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

Cc: rwatson@mcps.k12.mt.us

Hi all. I'm writing this email for several reasons. I just got word from some friends of ours who have been in communication with Mr. Watson, and now being told November sending kids back to school vs. the proposed 10/12 date. We CANNOT do this.

We're lucky, my wife and myself are Realtors, we have a pretty flexible schedule and can make this home schooling happen to a certain extent Monday-Wednesday. But I'm here to tell you, we have an 11, 9 and 6 year old. 1 person cannot home school all 3 of these boys, especially when we have a 6 year old who's in kindergarten asking after 2 minutes, "Daddy what do I do now?" I can't imagine how difficult this is for single parents, people working 8-5, or whatever the scenario might be.

Rob - I've been told it's pushback from the teachers. I'm a former educator in the Lake Washington School District in Redmond, WA. We NEED to tell these teachers and the union it is time, and the time is October 12th. Target Range goes back full-time tomorrow. Schools, from my understanding, in Yellowstone County with the most amount of Covid cases in our state are at 4 days week. Yet, here we are in typical City of Missoula fashion.

If rumor is true on the November date, I'm imploring you all as leaders of our district to stay the course of 10/12. These kids need to be back together, they need structure, and doggone it they need education.

Thank you for allowing me to voice my opinion.

Jason Schaefer
jason.d.schaefer@gmail.com
406-493-4262

Hold off until data shows a slow in cases

Lindsay Manzo <lrmanzo@mcpsmt.org>

Tue, Sep 22, 2020 at 7:19 AM

To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org, Robert Watson <rwatson@mcpsmt.org>

Dear Dr.Watson and Board members,

I feel like at this point, we all need to really consider cases and whether or not we want to be a city who trusts data and science, or rushes to normality.

Unfortunately, I don't get to make that decision outside of my own personal actions. I don't even get to choose if I work remotely or in person when I feel unsafe and uncomfortable if I want to continue my profession as an educator with MCPS. As a teacher, all o can do is attempt to make my classroom as safe as possible under the conditions you determine.

Please be cautious with your decisions and consider cases and data. I feel like many decisions have been rushed this year to the detriment of learning and safety. Please show your wisdom and do not make this decision with cases rapidly rising in Missoula. It doesn't matter what age groups are being lost effected when over 100 new cases appear in one small city in one week.

You can choose to hold off and make this decision with a more informed lens in a week or two. As our leaders and the people who determine the level of risk our community is subjected to, please consider a little bit more prudence and slow down to let data guide you. It will help us all feel safer to know that you are being thoughtful and are not just rushing to a predetermined agenda if you show a moment of pause during times like this.

Thanks for reading. I know a decision cannot be endlessly delayed - but cases are spiking, and considering how many of my students play sports, have university parents and have siblings at the university... it just seems kind to wait and see what happens to our community before we reduce our ability to control further spread.

Thank you for reading, apologies for any typos or grammatical issues. I wanted to get this to you early today.

Please do not respond to me with a canned response, that has been disheartening. I would prefer no response.

Thank you again,

Lindsay Manzo
Sentinel high school biology and wildlife teacher
Murdock teacher-researcher
Co- department lead

Lindsay Manzo
Sentinel High School
Biology/Wildlife Biology
lrmanzo@mcps.k12.mt.us

Hybrid Plus - a big "plus" for us!

Maria Holsen Mangold <maria.holsen@gmail.com>
To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

Tue, Sep 22, 2020 at 9:24 AM

Dear Board of Trustees and Superintendent Watson,

PLEASE consider the toll this shortened schedule is taking on the working families. We're exhausted. Our ability to plan beyond the next few weeks falls squarely in your hands. This lack of certainty contributes to the overall emotional fatigue of the pandemic.

My children (WMS 6th grader, Rattlesnake 4th grader, and Rattlesnake kindergartner) love to learn. They can't wait to go back to a more "normal" schedule. A sense of normalcy and routine is a luxury these days, but my children crave the structure and all the implicit and explicit expectations that come along with it.

From a parenting perspective, my husband and I are scrambling to balance our work demands and our parenting/remote, academic learning/social-emotional learning demands. We both work full-time. We are still experimenting with different approaches to managing these conflicting demands; we don't have any extended family nearby to lend a hand, nor do we think that paying for back-up child care is sustainable in the long term.

We recognize our privilege (that we can afford, in the short term, to throw money at this), but we also recognize that other, non-monetary costs, exist. Our emotional resources are depleted. I can imagine that other families feel the same way. Our children need to be able to relate to their peers to develop emotional resilience and empathy. They are not going to learn this online. I can provide many things for my children, but I can never be a peer nor replicate the experience of learning alongside their peers.

Perhaps you're hearing from parents who have a more flexible schedule and/or prefer the current MCPS schedule. I do hope that other families with two working parents will speak up, but we're probably all too busy working and trying to juggle our children's needs... hence my email at the final hour. Please consider the ramifications of continuing this less-than-half-time schedule that doesn't quite meet anyone's needs.

Thanks for all that you do.
Maria Mangold



Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

School schedule moving forward

Dawn Serra <dawn_serra@hotmail.com>

Tue, Sep 22, 2020 at 9:35 AM

To: "publiccomment@mcpsmt.org" <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

Hello,

I urge you to keep the schedule for K-12 as is; Two days in person feels safe and manageable. As much as I would prefer to have my children receive in-person instruction every day, with Missoula's cases rising steadily, it doesn't feel safe or wise to make changes at this point.

If there's any influence you can exert on the University to manage the cases spreading among their students, please do.

Thank you for considering my thoughts.

Sincerely,
Dawn Serra

Sent from my iPad



Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

In-Person School

Emma Merle Hunter <emmamerle@gmail.com>
To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

Tue, Sep 22, 2020 at 1:30 PM

Hello,

I wanted to tell the school board how well my three children are doing in their hybrid model. There were many concerns that children would have a hard time with mask-wearing and other prevention measures. I anxiously retrieved my three from their first day of school, wondering what their feelings would be on masks, physical distancing, not leaving their rooms, and plexiglass shields. Turns out they don't mind at all. They are so much more resilient and adaptable than adults! They have a wonderful time in class and are easily able to self-direct through homework on the other three days. Their teachers have identified shortcomings in their knowledge secondary to parent-directed learning last spring and are quickly helping them catch up academically.

While two weeks of quarantine resulting from exposure in their classroom would be quite inconvenient for our family, I don't have concerns that they will, through all the safety measures the school has established, actually contract Covid-19 in the school setting. They are safe. Some of their classmates are much safer there than at home.

Please keep moving our kids towards consistent contact with educators and school services. If Covid cases continue to rise, businesses and extracurriculars should be the first to discontinue to prevent spread. School should be the last. We should not be asking our kids to carry our covid response on their backs.

Emma Hunter RN PHN

Spectators at HS Sporting events

Jason & Jami Wright <jjwright31@gmail.com>
To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

Tue, Sep 22, 2020 at 2:26 PM

The Missoula City-County Health Department issued "Guidelines" for re-opening school sports and allowing spectators (attached). Simply put, guidelines are general, non-mandatory recommendations. So if these are guidelines - why are our school districts in this county not looking at these as recommendations vs. a policy? Guidance can be helpful, but is not binding. It is not a law, it is not a rule, it is not a regulation, it's not policy. A guideline is voluntary or optional. Who regulates a guideline? Who enforces a guideline?

MHSA gave general requirements and considerations for play and note 11 mentions attendance at MHSA events is dependent on host site and local health department guidelines and restrictions - guidelines are what MCHD issued - guidelines not restrictions.

Why are we not looking at these as guidelines and following a more reasonable approach to spectators? You've done a great job opening up the gym for volleyball games (including opening up the upper level bleachers), outdoor activities (soccer & football) should have NO limit to spectators - especially if we, as a school district, have put in place proper tools to allow spectators to social distance (bleachers around the field). I implore you to take a different approach and look at these as 'guidelines' that Missoula County Health Department has put in place - not policy, not a rule, not a regulation, not a law, not a restriction. Can't this be clarified with MHSA so as to not jeopardize our Fall Sports?

Lastly, the Montana Constitution mandate that school district trustees set the rules for school events (Article 10, Section 8)? If so, we shouldn't be delegating the decision making authority to another party (ie the health department). I think the school board needs to have a public comment period so we can hear what the community wants to see. If this is truly a board decision, I think the public would also like to know each board member's position on it as well.

I wanted to also bring to your attention the 'order' submitted by the health department on May 28th

I interpret this to mean, if we have 51-250 people - no plan is required but it is recommended.

I also interpret this to mean, if we have 251-1000 people - a plan is required but does NOT need to be submitted to the health department for review and approval.

If I am interpreting this correctly, we can have our games (inside or out up to 1000 people with no approval) and the guidelines for sporting events are just that guidelines, not an order.

--
Jason & Jami Wright

Please allow visiting team parents at school sporting events

Kim Beatty <kim@bkbh.com>

Tue, Sep 22, 2020 at 2:33 PM

To: "publiccomment@mcpsmt.org" <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

Ladies and Gentlemen: I write this afternoon to request that you allow visiting team parents at school sporting events in your county. My family is very close; we all support each other in everything we do. I have not missed a football game in my son's playing career. He will be a senior this year, so these will be the last few games. Once this season is over, so too is his football career. We can't get these missed memories back. There is no "next year."

It is so important for our kids' mental and emotional well being to have the support of their families, especially now when their routines have been upended, and their world has been turned upside down. It is also critical that if the worst happens, and my son is injured, that I am immediately available to talk with doctors and make informed medical decisions on the field. I don't want these critical decisions to be left to coaches, athletic directors, or medical providers alone. And I don't want to be like the parent last weekend, who, when his son was hurt during the game, moved from gate to gate, finding them all locked, unable to reach his injured son.

I also believe that my presence in the stadium will not increase the risk of spreading the virus in your community. I will wear a mask, sit socially distanced from others, wash my hands frequently (bringing my own hand sanitizer) and will provide contact tracing information before entry. If not permitted entrance into the stadium, I still plan to travel to your community because as a parent I feel obligated to both support my child and be as close as possible in the event of an injury. I believe it is better to have me in the stands, outside in a football stadium, sitting masked and 6 feet apart from all others, after having provided you with contact tracing information, than to be huddled together with the parents of the other 60 athletes, in a bar, without a mask, trying to watch the game live-streamed on a small screen, who then returns home without you having a way to identify me should contact tracing be necessary.

Missoula is the only school district within the AA Conference that refuses to allow parents to attend. Please, for the mental health and safety of our children and of their parents, please reconsider your position and allow us to attend in person. Thank you.

Kimberly Beatty
Browning, Kaleczyc, Berry & Hoven
800 N. Last Chance Gulch, Suite 101
Helena, MT. 59601
(406) 443-6820
Kim@bkbh.com

MISSOULA COUNTY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

Spectators

Michaele Janacaro <michaelerenae@gmail.com>

Tue, Sep 22, 2020 at 2:59 PM

To: "publiccomment@mcpsmt.org" <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

You guys really need to make changes and allow spectators to our high school sports games. We are the only county not allowing this. Do the right thing here. Make the change! Thank you --
michaele



Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

Fans in the stands

Sharon Bishop <sharonb.coin@gmail.com>
To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

Tue, Sep 22, 2020 at 3:05 PM

Get our families and friends back to watching our kids play ball!!!
Let the kids watch their classmates and have the band back!
You, Missoula City Council are an embarrassment and we want you all to be fired. Die commie scum

Thank You,
Sharon Bishop
406.542.5111

**Public Comment** <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

Spectators at Sporting Events

Sarah Magee <sarahmagee1993@yahoo.com>

Tue, Sep 22, 2020 at 3:16 PM

To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

I am writing to implore you to reverse the current decision to now allow out of town spectators at high school sporting events. Missoula is the only AA town to not allow visitors and this is unfair for the parents of the out of town players. Missoula parents are allowed to attend their players events when they travel. How is that fair? My son played football at Big Sky field this last Friday and my husband and I were forced to watch through binoculars along the north fence. We had absolutely no problem when we went to Kalispell. We socially distanced and wore masks in the visitor stands. Please apply some common sense and look at each sport individually. There is plenty of room for the visiting team parents in your visiting bleachers for football.

Sarah Magee

Spectators

Kami LaDue <kami_ladue@yahoo.com>

Tue, Sep 22, 2020 at 3:16 PM

Reply-To: Kami LaDue <kami_ladue@yahoo.com>

To: "publiccomment@mcpsmt.org" <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

This email is in regards to the spectators that are not being allowed to watch their children play sports.

Currently we are allowing 2 people per student, for intown students only. This means that siblings are not going to games and one parent has to stay home with the sibling which is causing issues for families. Also, no other family members are able to watch the kids play. My son is a senior and his brother, aunt, uncle and grandparents will not be able to watch him play, unless myself or my husband miss a game.

Also, another issue is that we are not letting spectators from out of town teams watch. I know these kids would like their parent/guardian there. What if one of these kids gets hurt and a parent or guardian is not here. Then what?

I have seen the space that is available in the stands and there is no reason that we could not still social distance with 4 spectators per intown player and 2 spectators for away teams.

Please consider this tonight as this is extremely important to the players and their families. We agree to social distance and wear masks throughout the event.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kami LaDue
Realtor

Missoula Realty
2110 S. Reserve
Missoula, MT 59801
(406) 239-8104
kami_ladue@yahoo.com

"what you do today can improve all your tomorrows"- Ralph Marston

Find agents in your area at...



A service of Quality Service Certification, Inc.



Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

Sports

Travis White <travbon91@hotmail.com>

Tue, Sep 22, 2020 at 3:30 PM

To: "publiccomment@mcpsmt.org" <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

Missoula County has taken the COVID restrictions to an unrealistic level and the schools have followed. Parents, siblings, extended family and friends should all be allowed to watch their children play high school sports. This includes both home and visitor teams.

There should be very limited restrictions on all outdoor sports - i.e. no masks needed if you are over 6 feet away from others and no restrictions on the number of attendees.

Indoor sports can have added restrictions but if people are wearing masks then they should be allowed to be within 6 feet of each other so that there is plenty of room for everyone who wants to attend. There should not be a limit on the number of people that can attend.

If needed, a mask and no mask section can be made available so that there are options for people.

The people of Missoula County are being forced to continually bear more and more restrictions that are unfair and not in line with surrounding counties and enough is enough.

Let people watch their families and friends play sports!!!



Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

Spectators for youth events.

R <boston_1431@yahoo.com>

Tue, Sep 22, 2020 at 3:32 PM

To: "publiccomment@mcpsmt.org" <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

To whom it concerns,

I am a parent from Lewis and Clark county, my son is a senior at Capital High School and this email is lending to the support of having families present at events where minors are participating.

It makes no sense to tell families especially parents that they are not allowed at youth events, it is an overreach of local government and the fact that we have had to spend countless hours calling and writing emails in itself is a gross lack of respect for the family unit and the residents of this State. The Governor has issued several letters stating that his directive does not apply to schools or related youth activities and yet a few local officials have decided to restrict access to events for the parents and families of the athletes. The Montana Constitution states that the authority belongs to the schools and not the county health department and if it is the decision of Mr. Watson that spectators should not be permitted, then he needs to go back to the drawing board. Parents will travel to the cities in which their children play regardless of such ridiculous rules being imposed because we have a legal duty to these minor children and by preventing us from being present if anything were to happen is not only going to earn the district potential lawsuits, but will also leave you without the very support that you so desperately need, and that is the parents of the children in schools. Without families and children present in schools, you do not have a job, so it would seem that common sense would dictate working to a solution for the benefit of all involved but primarily for the kids.

Last Friday, I didn't know whether to be angry or to cry. Your decisions have parents of the children on the field standing outside of a chain link fence when there is acres of area in which they could sit socially distanced and watch the kids play. Several local bars had viewings of the game, so if this were truly about the community and stopping the spread of covid, wouldn't it make sense to have a controlled environment where all out of town spectators are in one central location watching their child rather than be sitting in a bar surrounded by even more potential points of contact? The logic and reasoning to the decisions lacks thoughtfulness, respect, and dignity for the families of both the home teams and those visiting. We are doing everything we can to keep the community safe, complying with all directives and offering reasonable solutions to wear masks, physically distance and keep everyone safe, and it is if your organizations just spit in our faces. It is hard to believe that you have the health and welfare of everyone in your interests when you approve concerts that are indoors and purposely impose ridiculous restrictions for outdoor youth events. We are not disease infected disgusting humans who have no concept of covid or doing everything we can do to keep ourselves and children safe. We are parents of the very schools that keep you thriving. We appreciate people engaging for our kids, coming up with solutions to keep things semi-normal in this very weird time, but we need cooperation. This is causing nothing but stress and grief, these are OUR children, we love them and are the ones that have their best interests at heart. This is not about football, soccer, or volley ball, this is about the kids mental health and growth, its about family, and about traditions. They can't get this time back and you are robbing not only the kids but the families of these very rare precious moments in their lives.

I could go on for hours, but I won't because we all know you have heard it time and time again. Please do the right thing for a change of pace and allow spectators according to the venue size, we will follow the guidance and direction, we have been willing to do that since day one. I am guessing if you really start looking at the covid cases, they are not driven by these kids or events.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Renee Little
Helena, MT

Spectators

Holly Jones <hollywouldjones@gmail.com>

Tue, Sep 22, 2020 at 3:40 PM

To: "publiccomment@mcpsmt.org" <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

There is no evidence to prove COVID-19 is spread at athletic events when sitting outside while masked AND socially distanced. In fact over 1,000 football games have taken place across the US with no evidence of spread. Not allowing families from both teams to sit together in a stadium or large gymnasium is overreach of authority and illogical.

You are now the only AA school district that is not allowing visiting spectators. You are hurting the children more than you are "protecting" them.

Signed,

A concerned parent in Gallatin County

Holly Jones

--

Holly Jones

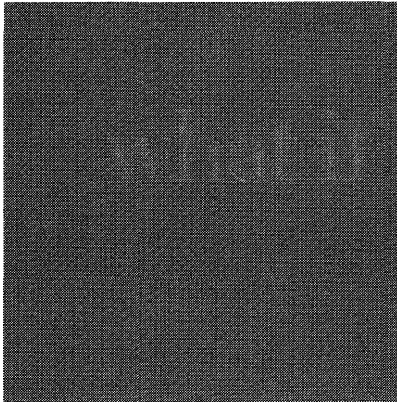
Level V Leader

Business Development

Independent Owner

Rodan + Fields

406-599-4428



To partner with our successful international team: hollyjones.myrandf.biz

To get started on the #1 skincare products in North America: hollyjones.myrandf.com

Contact me to learn why Forbes, Fast Company, Fox Business New, and The Today Show praise Rodan + Fields for redefining business and how we became the #1 skincare company in North America. Formerly a top selling skincare brand in prestige department stores, Rodan + Fields is now only available through people like me. I'd love to help you get started with the #1 skincare in North America or start your own web-franchise as we expand globally.*

**source: Euromonitor*

MISSOULA COUNTY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

Spectators should be allowed at football games and other sporting events!

Tara Husted <86griz@gmail.com>
To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

Tue, Sep 22, 2020 at 3:41 PM

It is time MCPS follows what other schools in the state are doing.

Let individuals make their own decisions on attending games and taking the risk of being exposed to Covid.

People want to support their kids like they have been doing way before 2020 happened.

Please consider that this is what is best for your athletes.

Tara Husted
3811 Stephens Ave #3
Missoula, MT 59801



Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

Sports spectators

Relinda Lindgren <RELINDAJL@msn.com>

Tue, Sep 22, 2020 at 3:50 PM

To: "publiccomment@mcpsmt.org" <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

To Whom It May Concern;

I am sending this e-mail to request that Missoula County get on with the business of opening up this state in it's entirety and a good place to start is with allowing spectators to all sporting events. Missoula County is currently the only county not allowing AA fans entry to the games.

We need leaders who understand that Covid-19 is NEVER going away. It will simply morph into Covid -20 like the previous 18 have done.

The sooner our leaders recognize this, and get our county re-opened for business and life again, the better.

The masks need to GO and fans need to be present.

Thank you,
Relinda Lindgren & family



Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

Please allow spectators to sporting events

Mary Hurd <mary@rentsmartmissoula.com>
To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

Tue, Sep 22, 2020 at 4:08 PM

Dear MCPS Board Members:

I ask that you kindly consider allowing spectators to the games so friends and family can support their student athlete and team. Every AA in the state is allowing spectators and we ask for the same privilege in Missoula.

Thank you for your consideration.

Warm regards,

Mary Hurd
Owner, Licensed Property Manager
Rent Smart Property Management
Western Montana Chapter NARPM Secretary 2020



Happy with our service? Please take a moment to share your experience with others by clicking [here!](#)

www.rentsmartmissoula.com

PO Box 1675
Missoula, MT 59806

****This message may contain confidential and/or proprietary information and is intended for the person/entity to whom it was originally addressed. Any use by others is strictly prohibited.****



Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

Spectators

karen sherman <railrider9408@sbcglobal.net>

Tue, Sep 22, 2020 at 4:09 PM

To: "publiccomment@mcpsmt.org" <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

I realize that the administration thinks this is purely about parents being able to watch their children compete but the onerous restrictions placed on our children are harmful. I am seeing kids that were some of our best and brightest just checking out. They see no end in sight and, quite frankly, have had enough. We are doing them a real disservice. This is not keeping our kids safe. It is, however, putting them in danger of anything from detached apathy to serious depression. Our children need to know that we are there for them. Being able to cheer them on at sporting events is the very least we can do. Our country no longer has the numbers to support pandemic classification and it's time to let our children get back to normal! Thank you for your time, Karen Sherman

MISSOULA COUNTY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

Seriously

mb <mikeb3211@yahoo.com>
To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

Tue, Sep 22, 2020 at 4:15 PM

Please allow fans. The Dallas cowboys had 21,000 and guess what, they didn't all die. Wake up Allow fans

publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

Fans at HS sporting events

Jason Vanhorn <jasonvanhorn3@gmail.com>

Tue, Sep 22, 2020 at 4:27 PM

To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

High School sporting events is not just for the players, it's a community event that has happened for years. Fans at events builds character, builds community, builds relationships and unites families and friends.

By preventing fans and the numbers that we've had in the past it's tearing apart community it is tearing apart the trust that we have in our officials to regulate what is best for the community. As a father and former player I am begging that you not only increase the number of home team fans but please start allowing the visiting fans to come watch their children play as well.

Thank you for your time.
Jason Van Horn

WA 5 00:00:00



Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

Spectators at football games

TJ and LESLEY TEMPLETON <lesandtj@msn.com>

Tue, Sep 22, 2020 at 4:29 PM

To: "publiccomment@mcpsmt.org" <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

At the board meeting tonight I would please ask that you re-evaluate the current procedure around this.

Many other cities in Montana are allowing 4 per home team player and 2 visitor.

The first few games it is very clear that 2 per player only uses 25% of the bleachers on the home side. You could easily double.

Also the visiting side is empty. Give them their own entrance over there and put a portable toilet. They already come to missoula and shop and go to restaurants. There isn't any reason they can stay on the other side and social distance from each other.

Thanks
Lesley Templeton

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy S10e, an AT&T 5G Evolution capable smartphone



Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

Out of county spectators

Bearly Makin It -n- Montana <montanamadegifts@yahoo.com>

Tue, Sep 22, 2020 at 4:32 PM

Reply-To: "montanamadegifts@yahoo.com" <montanamadegifts@yahoo.com>

To: "publiccomment@mcpsmt.org" <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

Hello from Kalispell !

My son is a senior and plays football for Glacier High school. I cannot bear the thought of missing any of his games but I may have to if you don't let us watch. I CANNOT get this time back and my son doesn't get another senior year PLEASE Missoula County let us watch our kids !!!

You are the only AA team who is not allowing visting fans ! Why is that ? Do we have cooties ? Do we smell ? Are we to loud ? What is it Missoula County ?

Flathead County is letting YOUR spectators come to our town to watch, so dont you think you SHOULD do the same for us ? These are our kids and we SHOULD be able to WATCH them play.

I'm asking that Missoula County allow vistors from opposing teams to attend games.

PLEASE do the right thing Missoula County!!

Thank you for your time !

Rachel Johnson
Kalispell

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

Spectators @ MHSA Fall Sports

Leann Herzog <herzogleann@gmail.com>
To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org
Cc: Leann Herzog <herzogleann@gmail.com>

Tue, Sep 22, 2020 at 4:33 PM

To Whom It May Concern,

Montana High School Association allowed fall sports to happen in the state of Montana. They knew that meant spectators in the form of parents, grandparents, siblings, aunts, uncles, cousins, school friends etc... would all want to watch their loved one participate.

At the minimum MCPS should allow visiting team parents to watch. It is not fair to any child that they are denied the opportunity to share an event with a parent or siblings.

Not allowing spectators is shameful and does not represent the intention of MHSA's approval of fall sports. Do the right thing. LET US ALL WATCH!!!

LEANN HERZOG

- parent of a Hellgate High School football player.
 - aunt of a Butte High School football player
 - aunt of a CMR High School football player
 - aunt of a class B/C volleyball player
 - supporter of ALL children
-



Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

Activities attendance

Scott Crews <crewser74@gmail.com>
To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

Tue, Sep 22, 2020 at 4:38 PM

Board member and superintendent Watson

I am again writing another letter to express my concerns and frustration with your inability to explain your current spectator guidelines.

Here are some questions that I would like to have answered.

1) in a outdoor stadiums that holds 3500 people what is the rationale behind only letting in approximately 120 people to watch the event.

2) according to MCHD the issue with football is the fact that the student athletes are not able to social distance from one another. Therefore bringing in more spectators some how amplifies the possibility of an "event outbreak". I have attended both games played at MCS as I have a senior and junior. The fans that have been allowed to attend these games in my opinion we have done an excellent job of socially distancing and wearing masks (which I personally don't feel like I need to). To me bring in spectators that socially distance and wear masks in no more detrimental to our society than driving my car to get to the stadium. Why is it your view that more spectators socially distancing in an outdoor stadium causes a bigger risk to the health of these students and their rights. Explain to me how 250 spectators can attend a volleyball game yet more than half of that number can attend a football game?

3). Has the mental and social aspects been discussed by any of you in regards to the health and mental well being of our students. In my opinion this age group k-12 has been asked to sacrifice the most out of all of us. The high school experience helps influence us and helps shape us to be better equipped when these students enter into real life. Have the students been asked what they want?

Instead of having the student body (which might be 200 students) congregate at a stadium that will be supervised you are opting for kids to go out and congregate at other areas. At least in the stadium it is a controlled environment where you either follow the rules laid out or you are asked to leave. Not only that but the social impacts of not interacting with someone in the physical state compared to the hours of wasted social interactions that occur on social media which has already been shown to be detrimental to their mental states. How disheartening is it for the student athletes and students to be told that their lives are not as important as those people that might be in an age group that has a far greater chance of complications from Covid than their own age group. Let these kids experience high school in a fashion that is somewhat of a return to normalcy.

It's time that you starting thinking about what is best for the students at these local schools socially and mentally!

I hope that you all can recognize these issues and come to some type of rational decision! Again we are not asking for packed stadiums of non-mask wearing fans. 1000 fans including students I feel is a legitimate number that still can be socially distanced, and the ability for fellow students who these athletes represent also need to be included into the conversation!!

Lastly, we as parents have reached our breaking point in regards to all of this.

Someone please speak with a rational voice so that all of us can understand your guidelines (FACTS not beliefs or feelings)and why you all feel they are what is best for our kids, because we do not think it is!!!

Thank you for your time
Scott Crews

**MISSOULA COUNTY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

parents at games

Patti A <mtmudbaby@charter.net>

Tue, Sep 22, 2020 at 4:41 PM

To: "publiccomment@mcpsmt.org" <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

Our Covid numbers do not constitute keeping parents from watching their kids' games. Please allow all parents to attend all sporting activities for their children and others. That's community!!!! It's also psychologically necessary and healthy for kids to get the community's support, encouragement, and involvement! Let's not lose our common sense!

Thank you! Stop the madness.

Patti Anderson

Sent from Mail for Windows 10



Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

Fan attendance

james compton <jms_cmptn@yahoo.com>

Tue, Sep 22, 2020 at 4:44 PM

Reply-To: james compton <jms_cmptn@yahoo.com>

To: "publiccomment@mcpsmt.org" <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

Please consider allowing up to 1000 people to attend events. The directive and Appendix A that the county keeps referring allows for 1000 people without the approval of the county. I have attached both documents for you to review.

Thank you for your consideration.

James Compton

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

2 attachments



AppendixAEvents.pdf

150K



May28HealthOfficerOrder.pdf

5872K

APPENDIX A

EVENTS AND GATHERINGS WITH MORE THAN 50 PEOPLE

This document provides the necessary information for event organizers to complete COVID-19 event plans as recommended or required, depending on the size of the event, by the Health Officer's order.

Event organizers should recognize that there is inherent risk with bringing together large groups of people during the COVID-19 pandemic. The CDC recognizes that large events and gatherings can contribute to the spread of COVID-19 and can introduce the virus into communities through travelers who attend the events. Further, CDC recommends canceling large gatherings and events if the community spread of COVID-19 is "minimal to moderate" within the community. Adhering to the requirements outlined below will help mitigate the risk, but will not eliminate it.

1. Events and gatherings that will have more than 50 people, including attendees, volunteers and staff, shall be highly structured so that event staff can assure that requirements will be met throughout the event.
2. The COVID-19 event plan shall show how the event will be implemented and controlled so that all the requirements can be met.
3. Event Requirements:
 - a. The six-foot physical distance between individuals/associated parties/50-person groups shall be maintained for the duration of the event.
 - i. Organizers must determine the maximum event capacity that provides for adequate physical distancing of attendees. This capacity shall not be exceeded.
 - ii. When promoting the event, organizers must take into consideration that people may show up at the event in numbers that exceed maximum capacity. Organizers must be able to effectively exclude people if their admittance would cause an exceedance of the maximum capacity or 6-foot distancing in waiting lines outside of the event cannot be maintained.
 - iii. Foot traffic flow, including waiting lines and entry into the venue, moving within the venue, seating, and exiting the venue, and seating shall be designed and monitored to ensure 6-foot physical distancing will be maintained;
 - iv. The physical boundaries of event shall be clearly defined and delineated to ensure crowds and flow can be managed.
 - v. Signs and other visible markers shall be used to help attendees understand and comply with physical distancing requirements; and
 - vi. Event organizers must anticipate that some attendees will not understand or follow the requirements. Organizers shall be able to manage or exclude participants who are not following the physical distancing requirements.
 - b. Events may use static groups of 50 people or fewer who do not intermingle with other static groups of 50 people to manage physical distancing within an event.
 - i. Strict physical distancing does not have to be maintained within the 50-person group.
 - ii. Organizers must ensure that those groups will not intermingle during the event, including when entering or exiting the venue; and
 - iii. Use of 50-person groups does not otherwise change the total number of allowable people at an event or gathering or the requirements that apply.

- c. Frequently touched surfaces, including bathroom facilities, shall be disinfected frequently during the event;
- d. Toilet and handwashing facilities and hand sanitizer shall be provided;
- e. Workers and attendees with symptoms shall be excluded; and
- 4. In case of an exposure to COVID-19 at the event, organizers and/or attendees shall be able to identify where an attendee was sitting or located during the event, and which other people may have had close contact with the COVID-19 case. This information must remain available for public health officials for at least two weeks after the event.
- 5. The event shall be modified, scaled back, postponed or canceled if notified by the Health Officer that further restrictions for gatherings and events are necessary based on the Reopening Phase and the epidemiological situation at the time the event will take place.
- 6. The Department may approve alternate strategies to the requirements listed herein, if the Department determines that those strategies will provide equivalent public health protection.
- 7. Organizers must follow the COVID-19 event plan during the event or gathering. Organizers shall make further adjustments if necessary during the event to ensure that participants maintain the required physical distance.
- 8. The Health Officer may cancel an event or gathering, regardless of whether a plan was required, if the event or gathering does not adhere to the requirements of this Order.
- 9. The event venue may have additional requirements. For example, Places of Assembly and Bars and Restaurants have a maximum capacity of 75% of normal operating capacity, and Bars and Restaurants must close, with all customers out by 11:30 PM. If requirements for the event and venue conflict, the more restrictive requirement applies.

IF THE EVENT WILL HAVE OVER 1000 PEOPLE

- 1. Organizers must submit a complete COVID-19 Event Plan to the Missoula City-County Health Department at envhealth@missoulacounty.us or 301 West Alder, Missoula, MT 59802 before the event. Organizers are encouraged to submit the plan as early as possible to give time for review and collaboration, but must submit it at least 10 business days before the event.
- 2. The Department will provide responses to completed plans within 5 business days of receiving the plan.
- 3. Responses may include additional requirements or requests for more information.
- 4. The Health Officer can limit the number of people who may attend the event based on the submitted plan and venue. Organizers must ensure that Health Officer-imposed capacity limits are complied with during the event.
- 5. The event shall not take place without written approval of the COVID-19 Event Plan from the Missoula City-County Health Department.
- 6. The Health Department shall make the final determination of whether the plan will ensure that the requirements for large events and gatherings can be achieved during the event.
- 7. The Health Department may revoke the approval for failure to adhere to the elements of the plan or failure to manage the event as approved.
- 8. The Health Department's approval is based on review of the COVID-19 Event Plan's compliance with local, state and national authorities regarding best practices to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. Approval of the COVID-19 Event Plan by the Health Department does not eliminate the risk of spread of COVID-19.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. When practical, face coverings are strongly recommended for staff, volunteers, attendees, participants and audience members, especially when the 6-foot distancing cannot or will not be maintained (such as when 50-person groups are used).
2. People within 50-person groups should maintain 6 feet from each other, and event organizers should do what they can to facilitate that physical distancing. This recommendation does not apply to household members or to people who have arrived at the event together.

ORDER of the MISSOULA CITY & COUNTY HEALTH OFFICER
Requirements for Reopening Businesses and Events in Missoula County
May 28, 2020

WHEREAS, the State of Montana, Missoula County, and the City of Missoula are in a declared state of emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic;

WHEREAS, on May 19, 2020, the Governor issued a Directive with requirements and guidance for Phase Two of the phased reopening of Montana, to begin on June 1, 2020;

WHEREAS, the Governor's Directive sets forth a minimum set of statewide requirements in Phase Two that are enforceable by local public health jurisdictions;

WHEREAS, the Governor's Directive includes a group size limit of 50 people in circumstances that do not readily allow for appropriate social distancing and directs people planning events with more than 50 people to consult with the local health department on a plan to implement adequate social distancing;

WHEREAS, local jurisdictions can enact requirements that are more restrictive than State guidelines;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 50-2-118 of the Montana Code Annotated, a local health officer in carrying out the purpose of the public health system shall take steps to limit contact between people in order to protect the public health from imminent threats, including but not limited to ordering the closure of buildings or facilities where people congregate and cancelling events;

WHEREAS, the Johns Hopkins' "Plan for a Phased Reopening Guided by Public Health Principles" assesses risk of coronavirus virus transmission at mass gatherings of all types as "high" and mitigation potential ranging from "medium to high" depending on the type of mass gathering;ⁱ

WHEREAS, CDC recognizes that "large events and mass gatherings can contribute to the spread of COVID-19 in the United States via travelers who attend these events and introduce the virus to new communities" and further recommends "cancel[ing] large gatherings (e.g., more than 250 people though threshold is at the discretion of the community)" if transmission of COVID-19 is at "minimal to moderate levels";ⁱⁱ

WHEREAS, in the absence of a curative treatment or a vaccine, maintaining six feet of distance between people is a primary means for preventing disease transmission and, the ability to quickly identify people who are contacts of a person with a positive COVID-19 test (also called contact tracing) is a fundamental responsibility for re-opening and a primary disease control measure, congregations of any size and type must provide means to meet these public health goals;ⁱⁱⁱ

WHEREAS, Missoula's local health officer, after researching additional mitigation measures, has determined that additional measures are required to limit contact between people in order to protect the public from imminent health threats and to implement the governor's directive at the local level;

THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

- 1) Effective June 1, 2020, events and gatherings, including but not limited to receptions, conventions, parties, meetings, fairs, festivals, craft fairs, farmer's markets, vendor events, concerts, sporting events, tournaments and races, whether they take place at a "place of assembly" or other venue, must meet the following requirements:
 - Events and gatherings are limited to a total of 50 people in circumstances that do not readily allow for appropriate physical distancing for the duration of the event, including but not limited to receptions, dances, sports, parades, and other events that are inherently inconducive to maintaining physical distancing.
 - Events and gatherings that will have a total of 51-250 people, including attendees, staff and volunteers, are allowed under the requirements listed in Appendix A. An internal COVID-19 event plan is **recommended** to ensure the event or gathering will meet the minimum requirements for events and gatherings in Appendix A.
 - Events and gatherings that will have a total of 251-1000 people, including attendees, staff and volunteers, are allowed under the requirements listed in Appendix A. An internal COVID-19 event plan is **required** to ensure the event or gathering will meet the minimum requirements for events and gatherings in Appendix A. The internal plans do **not** need to be submitted to the Health Department for review and approval but must be maintained onsite and made available to the Health Department upon request.
 - Events that will have a total of more than 1000 people, including attendees, staff and volunteers, must develop and submit a COVID-19 Event Plan to the Health Department for review and approval, in accordance with Appendix A. The event or gathering shall not take place without written approval from the Health Department.
 - Event organizers must follow their plan during the event, and make adjustments during the event or gathering, if necessary, to achieve physical distancing.
 - Event organizers must modify, scale back, postpone or cancel the event if notified by the Health Officer to do so.
- 2) Businesses and individuals providing grooming, beauty, body art, piercing, massage, spa and similar services, including but not limited to barbers (including barbers and barbers - nonchemical), cosmetologists, electrologists, estheticians, manicurists and massage therapists must meet the minimum requirements in Appendix B.

- 3) Businesses which are open to the public must:
 - a. Limit capacity to the degree necessary to ensure customers can adhere to 6-foot physical distancing; and
 - b. Have visible cues in place to alert customers of the visible distancing requirement and to denote the required six-foot separation distances.
- 4) In addition to the requirements in (3), Retail Businesses that are open to the public must have developed and implemented an individualized plan addressing the requirements in the Governor's Re-opening Directive and this Order, as evidenced by completing Appendix C. The completed appendix must be maintained on site and be made available to the Department upon request.
- 5) Dining areas in food and drink establishments such as restaurants, bars, breweries, distilleries and casinos shall:
 - a. Remain closed if the requirements and guidelines in the Governor's April 22, 2020 and May 19, 2020 Directives cannot be met; and
 - b. Provide for at least six feet of separation between diners, or groups of diners, including those sitting in booths.
- 6) These measures shall remain in effect until this order is revoked or revised based on review of epidemiological data, testing availability, and public health and medical capacity to control transmission of the virus and treat COVID-19 or unless more stringent measures are issued by the governor. Subsequent orders from the Governor and/or the Missoula City-County Health Officer instituting restrictions as a result of epidemiological data, such as an increase in COVID-19 cases, may result in required cancellations of events otherwise authorized in this Order and closures and further restrictions on establishments.
- 7) This Order supersedes previous COVID-19-related orders of the Missoula City-County Health Officer as they apply to events and businesses.
- 8) The requirements and restrictions in this Order are in addition to existing Directives by the Governor. Individuals and businesses should rely on this Order where any inconsistencies exist between this Order and an existing Governor's Directive.

Signed:



Ellen Leahy, RM, MN, MPH
Director & Health Officer

5-28-20

Date

ⁱ "A Plan for a Phased Reopening Guided by Public Health Principles: Guidance for Governors" Johns Hopkins Center for Biosecurity, April 17, 2020, pg. 18 <https://www.ihsp.edu/covid-19/articles/a-plan-for-a-phased-reopening-guided-by-public-health-principles.html> on May 27, 2020

ⁱⁱ Get Your Mass Gatherings or Large Community Events Ready Interim Guidance for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Guidance as of 3/15/2020 at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/large-events/mass-gatherings-ready-for-covid-19.html#postponing> on May 27, 2020

ⁱⁱⁱ "Guidelines: Opening Up American Again" White House and Centers for Disease Control April, 2020 at <https://www.whitehouse.gov/openingamerica/> on May 28, 2020; and "Health Departments: Interim Guidance on Developing a COVID-19 Case Investigation & Contact Tracing Plan" Centers for Disease Control at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/case-investigation-contact-tracing.pdf> May, 28, 2020

Please Let Parents Watch

Cindy Hanenburg <cjburger2000@hotmail.com>

Tue, Sep 22, 2020 at 4:50 PM

To: "publiccomment@mcpsmt.org" <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

As a parent of a Frenchtown High School football player, I wanted to share a story in support of allowing out-of-district parents to attend Class AA football games in Missoula County.

During Frenchtown's game with Butte Central a couple weeks ago, we were at a Butte bar watching the live stream with other Frenchtown parents because we weren't allowed near the stadium to watch. The most shocking part of this statement is we were in a Butte bar...with NO restrictions on the number of people allowed in the establishment. Early in the game my husband and I received a call from our Assistant AD letting us know that our son had been injured and we could come to the ambulance at the stadium to check on him. Our son was panicked over his injury and his teammate's, high school career ending injury earlier in the game, and our AD was concerned. Our son just needed his parents there to let those feelings out and maneuver through the situation and know....it was going to be okay.

We were SO thankful to have Frenchtown admin & coaches available who were compassionate and recognized our son needed his parents to get him through this frightening experience. Had we NOT been sitting in a bar in Butte, I'm not sure how this would have played out. We have made 95% of our son's games since 3rd grade to cheer him on, watch him grow (physically, mentally, and as a player), but also to be there for him when he is hurt (physically or emotionally after a game), which is most every parent's experience and why the current circumstances have families on edge. I can guarantee you that every mother at every single football game spends the **entire** game watching their son at the end of every single play for signs of an injury or concussion. We hold our breath, each and every time. In fact, not one person sitting in that bar in Butte saw my son's injury - but I did...immediately! Coaches are focused on the game. They can't see everything. When my son comes off the field, I'm watching him like a hawk for signs of a concussion. I have marched down to the bench more than once, as I'm sure many moms have, to make sure he's okay. Boys will play through injuries. They think they're fine. It's our jobs as parents to make SURE they're fine. You won't find the health department on the sidelines watching our boys for concussions, and I sure as heck didn't find them on the sidelines in Butte. Class AA and A athletes train all year and are bigger and stronger than most athletes. These are high impact games, and injuries just happen. We have the RIGHT to be there for our children. I can't think of any other situation where those rights are removed, other than by criminal activity or voluntarily relinquishment. We are starting to feel like criminals.

PLEASE reconsider allowing out-of-district parents AND stepparents as spectators at Missoula County football games. I've made the same plea to Frenchtown.

Cindy Hanenburg

stadium and gym seating

Gena Stevens <gstevens@ymcamissoula.org>

Tue, Sep 22, 2020 at 4:53 PM

To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

It is so sad that people are being excluded from attending high school sporting events when there is significantly more space than 24 (volleyball) or 90 (football) parents need to be seated at least 6 feet apart.

It is a simple pleasure for families, friends and fellow students and there has to be more consideration for what is reasonable and right.

Our community and associated health care system is not overwhelmed by cases of Covid 19 at this time which makes all the restrictions seem ridiculous.

--

Thank you,

Gena Stevens**Accountant**

GREATER MISSOULA FAMILY YMCA

3000 S. Russell St.

Missoula, MT 59801

(P) 406-721-YMCA (9622) ext 6246 (F) 406-540-5160

Facebook | Instagram | Twitter

The Y: We're for youth development, healthy living and social responsibility.

Confidentiality Notice: This e-mail, including all attachments, is for the sole use of the intended recipient(s) and may contain confidential and privileged information. Any unauthorized review, use, disclosure or distribution is prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient, please notify the sender immediately and destroy all copies of this e-mail. Thank you.



Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

MCPS Spectators

Erick Prather <info@epiccllc.net>

Tue, Sep 22, 2020 at 4:57 PM

To: "publiccomment@mcpsmt.org" <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

To Whom it May Concern,

I'm writing to express my extreme frustration with the lack of action from MCPS Superintendent and Board of Trustees with regards to allowing spectators at MCPS Stadium.

It is severely disappointing a hot topic such as this is not on the agenda for tonight's Board of Trustees Meeting, why not?

After speaking with the health department, it is my understanding that MCPS has never submitted a spectator plan, why not? Is it because you knew all along the Board of Trustees is afforded the power to govern school activities, the only authority and body that can decide the spectator issue as per Montana Constitution, Article X, Section 8?

Is the Board of Trustees aware the Montana Supreme Court specifically recognized that students have the right to participate in extracurricular activities, a constitutional protected right?

Is the Board of Trustees aware they have created a safety, health and welfare situation by not allowing spectators?

Is the Board of Trustees aware they can and will be held personally and financially liable in the event a player is injured and the parent(s) or guardian is restricted and/or for violating the Constitutional Rights of players and parents?

These are real questions and the parents and players demand real answers. It's time for the Board of Trustees to show some leadership and fix this immediately. If you fail to act, you will prove to all of us you are no longer looking out for our kids best interest.

In closing, I can assure you we, the parents and players are losing patience. There is a large group of parents who have retained legal counsel and are prepared to let the courts rule on this un-Constitutional act if the Board of Trustees fails! I suggest you act swiftly, so fans can attend this weeks games.

Regards,

Erick M. Prather

**MISSOULA COUNTY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

Spectators

Debbie Fox <durnell.fox@gmail.com>
To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

Tue, Sep 22, 2020 at 5:06 PM

It seems very unfair that everyone in the state is allowing out of town spectators other than Missoula.

Why are you the only ones holding out???? Seems ridiculous and wrong to not even let the students be there to cheer on their friends.

WAKE UP PLEASE!!!

Debbie Fox
Sent from my iPhone



Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

Fans at outside games

Kelly Gregory <kgregory406@gmail.com>
To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

Tue, Sep 22, 2020 at 5:30 PM

The MC stadium is large enough to allow more fans and the band. The band kids work hard and should be able to show their hard work at the sporting events. The visiting teams should be allowed to support their kids also. Have the visiting team entering at a different gate and sit behind their team on the west side. It's sad to see the stands empty. It would be easy to socially distant at the stadium. Let the kids have their kids back.

Sent from my iPhone



Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

FOR THE LOVE

Cole Cooney <mbctg@live.com>

Tue, Sep 22, 2020 at 5:33 PM

To: "publiccomment@mcpsmt.org" <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

Let them in. All of them. To all sports.

Stop the insanity.

Michelle Cooney



Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

School Schedule

holly dickerson <hollyd98@yahoo.com>

Tue, Sep 22, 2020 at 6:01 PM

To: "publiccomment@mcpsmt.org" <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

Board of Trustees Members -

Please consider putting our children and their education first in your decision making about their school schedule. We're grateful for all you and the teachers have done so far, but these children need to be in school full time.

They cannot receive the full education they are intended to, or the social benefits they need in this hybrid mode. We support having our children go back to school full time and are willing to help in any way we can to make this possible!

Thank you,

Holly Dickerson
