

From: Covid-19PIO@missoulacounty.us <Covid-19PIO@missoulacounty.us>

Sent: Thursday, August 13, 2020 4:15 PM

To: COVID-19 PIO <COVID-19PIO@missoulacounty.us>; Sarah Coefield <scoefield@missoulacounty.us>

Subject: Missoula County, MT: Public comment on the COVID-19 response in Missoula County

A new entry to a form/survey has been submitted.

Form Name: Missoula County resident feedback/comments on the COVID-19 response.

Date & Time: 08/13/2020 4:15 PM

Response #: 4993

Time to complete: 19 min. , 58 sec.

Survey Details

Page 1

Please use this form to submit comments/provide feedback about the response to COVID-19 in Missoula County.

1. Are you a Missoula County resident?

(o) Yes

2. What is your name?

3. What is your email address?

slacogilvie@hotmail.com

4. Where in Missoula County do you reside?

Missoula

5. What are your comments?

I am writing this in regards to Montana's public health with the anticipated return of our kids back to school and sports. I feel that our kids need this for their mental, social, and physical health. Yes we may see a rise in cases, but this is a virus that has to spread. If we keep shutting everything down every time someone is positive, we will never get back to any normalcy. Let it ride out. As a hospital employee, the hospitals are far from overrun. That was the whole purpose of the shutdown in the beginning was to curve it. Never to stop it. The hospitals have prepared for months. Let these kids get back to school and sports. If we are so worried about the health of our community, we should be looking at the huge spike in suicides. We have lost by far more in Montana due to suicides (>300) than Covid (80) as people need to get back to life! Individuals are responsible for their own health and if they want to get back let them! For those who are uncomfortable don't! As far as the teachers that are not wanting to go back, I'm sorry, but that is the profession they chose. Just as I am a nurse, I had no choice but to step up and do my job at the bedside on the frontlines. It is now their time to be on the frontlines to getting our great state back to normal. Look at the numbers from states and countries that didn't shut down their schools. They are fine! Let's do this. A lot of students and their parents, teachers and coaches want to do this so stop impeding and start encouraging. There is positive out there, but everyone is so focused on the negative. Yes people need to be informed, but be positive! As a parent, I am aware of the risks, but there are risks in living. This family is ready to go!

From: COVID-19 PIO <COVID-19PIO@missoulacounty.us>

Subject: Another public comment re: schools

Date: August 20, 2020 at 10:46:16 AM MDT

To: Hatton Littman <hlittman@mcps.k12.mt.us>, Dara McDevitt <dmcdevitt@missoulacounty.us>, Julie Johnson <jjohnson@missoulacounty.us>, Cindy Farr <cfarr@missoulacounty.us>

Resent-From: <hlittman@mcps.k12.mt.us>

FYI. This one came in at 10:34 this morning (8/20).

Sarah Coefield, M.S., M.A.
Air Quality Specialist
Missoula City-County Health Department
301 W. Alder
Missoula, MT 59802
Phone [\(406\) 258-3642](tel:4062583642)

From: Covid-19PIO@missoulacounty.us <Covid-19PIO@missoulacounty.us>

Sent: Thursday, August 20, 2020 10:33 AM

To: COVID-19 PIO <COVID-19PIO@missoulacounty.us>; Sarah Coefield <scoefield@missoulacounty.us>

Subject: Missoula County, MT: Public comment on the COVID-19 response in Missoula County

A new entry to a form/survey has been submitted.

Form Name: Missoula County resident feedback/comments on the COVID-19 response.
Date & Time: 08/20/2020 10:33 AM
Response #: 5011

Survey Details

Page 1

Please use this form to submit comments/provide feedback about the response to COVID-19 in Missoula County.

1. Are you a Missoula County resident?

(o) Yes

2. What is your name?

3. What is your email address?

4. Where in Missoula County do you reside?

MT

5. What are your comments?

why aren't you following your own covid safety recommendations when you support school reopening. Teachers will be working with hundreds of close contacts, often in rooms with poor ventilation. Also schools don't have enough custodian support to keep a school clean under normal circumstances . Your decision to support reopening with students while cases are on the rise is highly irresponsible .

Thank you,
Missoula County, MT

From: Sarah Coefield <scoefield@missoulacounty.us>

Subject: Public Comment re: Schools

Date: August 20, 2020 at 8:12:12 AM MDT

To: Hatton Littman <hlittman@mcps.k12.mt.us>, Cindy Farr <cfarr@missoulacounty.us>, Dara McDevitt <dmcdevitt@missoulacounty.us>, Julie Johnson <jjohnson@missoulacounty.us>

Resent-From: <hlittman@mcps.k12.mt.us>

FYI - This came in today (8/20).

Sarah Coefield, M.S., M.A.

Air Quality Specialist

Missoula City-County Health Department

301 W. Alder

Missoula, MT 59802

Phone [\(406\) 258-3642](tel:4062583642)

From: Covid-19PIO@missoulacounty.us <Covid-19PIO@missoulacounty.us>

Sent: Thursday, August 20, 2020 1:13 AM

To: COVID-19 PIO <COVID-19PIO@missoulacounty.us>; Sarah Coefield <scoefield@missoulacounty.us>

Subject: Missoula County, MT: Public comment on the COVID-19 response in Missoula County

A new entry to a form/survey has been submitted.

Form Name: Missoula County resident feedback/comments on the COVID-19 response.

Date & Time: 08/20/2020 1:13 AM

Survey Details

Page 1

Please use this form to submit comments/provide feedback about the response to COVID-19 in Missoula County.

1. Are you a Missoula County resident?

(o) Yes

2. What is your name?

3. What is your email address?

4. Where in Missoula County do you reside?

MT

5.

What are your comments?

I am writing today as a concerned parent and visiting teacher in the Missoula County Public Schools. The school board has made a number of decisions recently that have been, at least in part, informed by recommendations set by the health department. However, it appears that schools are not adequately prepared and do not have the PPE they need, nor the safety protocols, to operate safely. Class sizes are growing as teachers are redistributed to accommodate the hybrid schedule, and schools don't have enough cleaning supplies or protective equipment. On top of that, the number of adults in each classroom is growing as accommodations are made for paras and specialists assigned to work with higher needs students. This is not the kind of situation parents thought they'd be sending their kids into. And while I'm aware that the general parameters around covid-19 spread allow for gatherings of up to 50 people, I am alarmed that this is being used in the context of school settings as well. I had hoped that context and the ability of teachers to do their jobs well would necessitate much smaller classroom sizes than normal. Adding more kids to some classrooms to facilitate the ability to make sure there are enough teachers to go around doesn't make sense and seems like an argument for full online school until logistics can be safely worked out. I realize that parents can opt into the online school but that's not an option for everyone, and schools opening too soon is likely to have a bigger impact on struggling families than waiting until safety and logistics are sorted out. I also think it's imperative that the health department reassess recommendations for group sizes and numbers of adults in classrooms (especially if some of those adults will be going back and forth between cohorts). An outdoor barbeque of 50 adults is clearly not the same thing as even 20 7-year-olds, who will remove masks if their noses are stuffy or touch things they shouldn't, or any number of things that normal 7-year-olds do. I strongly urge the health department to look into the logistics and plans and resources in ALL MCPS schools and to consider more carefully how opening the schools too soon might impact the whole city and county. I would hate to see a continued rise of covid-19 cases in Missoula, but I'm afraid that with the chaos of re-opening, and the lack of supplies, that this is precisely what will happen unless plans are reassessed as soon as possible.

Thank you for your time,

From: COVID-19 PIO <COVID-19PIO@missoulacounty.us>

Subject: Public comment re: schools

Date: August 21, 2020 at 9:36:55 AM MDT

To: Hatton Littman <hlittman@mcps.k12.mt.us>, Cindy Farr <cfarr@missoulacounty.us>, Julie Johnson <jjohnson@missoulacounty.us>, Dara McDevitt <dmcdevitt@missoulacounty.us>

Resent-From: <hlittman@mcps.k12.mt.us>

Received last night via our public feedback portal.

Sarah Coefield, M.S., M.A.

Air Quality Specialist

Missoula City-County Health Department

301 W. Alder

Missoula, MT 59802

Phone [\(406\) 258-3642](tel:4062583642)

From: Covid-19PIO@missoulacounty.us <Covid-19PIO@missoulacounty.us>

Sent: Thursday, August 20, 2020 6:41 PM

To: COVID-19 PIO <COVID-19PIO@missoulacounty.us>; Sarah Coefield <scoefield@missoulacounty.us>

Subject: Missoula County, MT: Public comment on the COVID-19 response in Missoula County

A new entry to a form/survey has been submitted.

Form Name: Missoula County resident feedback/comments on the COVID-19 response.

Date & Time: 08/20/2020 6:40 PM

Response #: 5015

Time to complete: 6 min. , 39 sec.

Survey Details

Please use this form to submit comments/provide feedback about the response to COVID-19 in Missoula County.

1. Are you a Missoula County resident?

(o) Yes

2. What is your name?

Elizabeth Morey

3. What is your email address?

4. Where in Missoula County do you reside?

MT

5. What are your comments?

As a parent of two Franklin Elementary students, I'm very frustrated with how the health department is complicit in the rushed reopening of our public schools. The MCPS administration and school board (as well as higher levels of government leadership) have been lax regarding this coming school year. You did such a wonderful job protecting our students, teachers, and staff in March. Why are you rushing to reopen when Montana and Missoula cases are higher than ever with no signs of slowing down?

Teachers, staff, and families have cried out for a different path, one that does not endanger the lives of all our community members, and especially those who are immunocompromised. Why has the board not found ways to ensure the ability to teach from home from all staff and teachers who desire it and whose lives will you will have put in jeopardy by pushing in-person hybrid reopening?

I know that this is an unprecedented time. This is a truly difficult task that you've been presented. However, it feels that the MCPS solutions to the problems presented by COVID-19 that you've approved are are slap-dash and rushed, thrown together at the last minute.

The wellbeing and lives of so many beloved community members of all ages are in your hands. I hope you will treat this responsibility with the respect that it deserves. At this point in time, I feel that you are not. I beg you to please reconsider your decision and consider urging the schools to reopen in Phase 0.

Thank you for your time and attention.

From: Mary Parrish <mparrish@missoulacounty.us>

Subject: Public Comment Re: MCPS Fully in person in Nov

Date: September 16, 2020 at 3:38:01 PM MDT

To: Hatton Littman <hlittman@mcpsmt.org>

Cc: Stephen Robertson <srobertson@missoulacounty.us>, Cindy Farr <cfarr@missoulacounty.us>

FYI here's a comment that came through. Evidently MCPS Superintendent announced that they are planning to fully open for in-person learning in November... ?

Sending to Hatton, too, as we previously discussed MCCHD Comms would forward MCPS related comments directly to MCPS.

Thanks.

new entry to a form/survey has been submitted.

Form Name: Missoula County resident feedback/comments on the COVID-19 response.
Date & Time: 09/16/2020 3:34 PM
Response #: 5145
Submitter ID: 75288

Time to complete: 4 min. , 2 sec.

Survey Details

Page 1

Please use this form to submit comments/provide feedback about the response to COVID-19 in Missoula County.

1. Are you a Missoula County resident?

☐ Yes

2. What is your name?

3. What is your email address?

Lewis and Clark neighborhood

4. Where in Missoula County do you reside?

Not answered

5. What are your comments?

I just received an email from the Superintendent of Schools saying that they are planning to move all students to five days a week of school in November.

I am praying to God (even though I'm not religious) that you, the health department, do not approve that plan. Our weekend numbers alone should be indicative of what is to come this winter when it is very hard for people to stay at home and isolate. The community is counting on you to support us. I'm so tired of bullish leaders who are dead-set on going back to how things used to be. We cannot do that. We need your epidemiologists and health activists to put the lives of our loved ones and our high-risk families first. Please. Please. Please. Please.

I'm literally counting on your team- I think a lot of us are.

From: Mary Parrish <mparrish@missoulacounty.us>
Subject: Public Comment re: MCPS
Date: September 21, 2020 at 1:19:21 PM MDT
To: Hatton Littman <hlittman@mcpsmt.org>
Cc: Sarah Coefield <scoefield@missoulacounty.us>

For your records and follow-up if you see fit, Hatton.

Thank you.

A new entry to a form/survey has been submitted.

Form Name: Missoula County resident feedback/comments on the COVID-19 response.
Date & Time: 09/17/2020 8:25 AM
Response #: 5147
Submitter ID:
IP address:
Time to complete: 2 min. , 18 sec.

Survey Details

Page 1

Please use this form to submit comments/provide feedback about the response.

1. Are you a Missoula County resident?

☐ Yes

2. What is your name?

3. What is your email address?

4. Where in Missoula County do you reside?

Rattlesnake

5. What are your comments?

Residents and parents need to know the number of cases at MCPS.

From: Mary Parrish <mparrish@missoulacounty.us>
Subject: FYI - Public Comment Re: MCCHD, UM, MCPS, etc.
Date: September 25, 2020 at 10:13:55 AM MDT
To: Ellen Leahy <eleahy@missoulacounty.us>, "Short, Paula" <paula.short@mso.umt.edu>, Hatton Littman <hlittman@mcpsmt.org>
Cc: Cindy Farr <cfarr@missoulacounty.us>, Allison Franz <af Franz@missoulacounty.us>, Sarah Coefield <scoefield@missoulacounty.us>

FYI Sharing this with partners as pieces pertain to each of us.

Survey Details

Page 1

Please use this form to submit comments/provide feedback about the response to COVID-19 in Missoula County.

1. Are you a Missoula County resident?

☐ Yes

2. What is your name?

3. What is your email address?

4. Where in Missoula County do you reside?

Missoula

5. What are your comments?

Seeing that there has been a major spike in cases locally, I would like to request that the university moves all their classes to occur remotely. I also think that other schools should move to remote classes (high school, middle school, elementary, etc.), at least until we have had several weeks of few or no cases.

I also think that both bars and restaurants should no longer be available for in-person service, especially while cases are rising so rapidly. Outdoor service appears to be much safer, but I do understand that few people will want to be sitting outdoors as the temperatures dip. Still, it is an unnecessary risk to take while the virus is so out of control in the community. I do understand the economic concerns of taking away these services, and I would like to see the service industry subsidized in whatever way possible, but as a country and county we have to value life over money, and it feels too often like we are being sacrificed just to keep the economy rolling, even if it is a lukewarm "boil" at best.

I lost my job in June and would love to return to work, but there is no hope that my industry will be viable during a raging pandemic since it is very much dependent on our ability to travel internationally. My wife is still working,

but since she is at a preschool we are both very concerned about the possibility of exposure that we cannot avoid in order to make rent every month. As a country and community, we are on a terrible trajectory, and I am mostly only seeing bad choices being made that almost always value profits over people, with little done to stop the spread of the virus. The mask mandate was a great step, but it is pretty ineffective with so many exceptions to the rule.

I am scared, angry, and immensely frustrated, so I really hope some positive moves can be made quickly, especially by moving all county education to remote classes, and putting a halt to other situations where people are in public indoor environments for extended periods, especially without masks. I know there are no easy solutions or silver bullets, but we have GOT to do better than this. Our lives (and livelihoods) literally depend on it.

Thank you very much for your time.

From: Mary Parrish <mparrish@missoulacounty.us>
Subject: Public Comment Re: MCPS Schools
Date: September 30, 2020 at 8:34:00 AM MDT
To: Hatton Littman <hlittman@mcpsmt.org>
Cc: Cindy Farr <cfarr@missoulacounty.us>, Sarah Coefield
<scoefield@missoulacounty.us>

Hatton, for your records.

Please see the text below from a member of the community, and a self-identified teacher, that expresses serious concerns about MCPS holding in-person instruction.

Where in Missoula County do you reside?

Missoula

5. What are your comments?

First and foremost, thank you all for your hard work and tireless dedication in keeping our community safe during the Covid pandemic. I especially appreciate the highly informative reports you've made available to the public about the presence of covid in schools across the state by county. The reports are very accessible, highly revealing, yet not surprising given the precepts of basic epidemiology. I am writing to ask you to please recommend that MCPS revert to remote learning for the health and safety of the community, especially for the classified and certified staff who are unable to work remotely, the majority of whom are over 40 year of age, and more at risk by virtue of age. I am a classroom teacher, and I am deeply concerned by recent decisions that have been approved by both the school board and the health department, and pushed by our superintendent.. With the current Hybrid schedule, we are able to socially distance only because more parents decided to enroll their children into the online academy after the first day of school. This is not to say I necessarily feel safe at work right now--I don't--I feel strongly, like the majority of teachers, that we should have started the school year remotely and flattened the curve before gradually easing back to in-person teaching. Doubling up the A (Tues/Wed) and B (Thurs/Fri) student groups together for 6 hours in a classroom 4 days a week in the next ten days, in blatant disregard of skyrocketing covid infections violates the Health Department's own mandates against congregating indoors in large groups. In short, it is insane to allow the district to shift out of the current hybrid schedule to Hybrid Plus/Phase 2 with winter coming on.

In Hybrid Plus, we will have over 400 people inside our school buildings breathing recirculated air through ventilation systems that have yet to be updated. It is incomprehensible to me that the Health Department approves of this, especially when there is a complete lack of any regular, systematic testing of all students and faculty at MCPS

and at UM to identify and isolate asymptomatic positive cases to curb transmission.

The Sept 16 and Sept 23 covid school reports issued by the health department show a huge increase in covid cases in schools across the state, with positive covid rates disproportionately affecting faculty. This is unsustainable and unsafe. There is on average one classroom teacher per 25 students at the elementary level. At the middle school and high school level, one teacher teaches over 100 students per day. Yet for every 2 students who test positive, 1 adult faculty member tests positive. Our school of 400 has a custodial staff of 3, who are additionally charged with the responsibility of disinfecting the entire building with no extra help. The district has a severe substitute shortage on all fronts: for teachers, secretaries and custodians. Inadequate coverage of faculty absences puts us all at greater risk. The health risk to our children is far greater if their parents become ill and/or hospitalized. Glacier Ice Rink has more safeguards in place than our schools. I ask, would any employees at the Health Department feel at ease being in a classroom with 15 to 20 children for six hours a day?

Additionally, I am concerned about the lack of enforcement on the local mask mandate in Missoula bars. Last Friday night, as I drove down Main Street, I couldn't help but notice that the Missoula Club Bar was packed to the brim with college students, none of whom were wearing masks, all of whom were inside. I noticed in the covid school reports that U of M has the highest infection rate of all university campuses in Montana. Many students at MCPS have family members who work at the university, and so the high rate of Covid on campus has serious implications for covid in our K-12 schools.
Thank you for your time and assistance.

--

Mary Parrish, MS

Public Information Officer - COVID-19 Response

Accreditation and Training Coordinator

Missoula City-County Health Department

406-830-5363 (PIO cell)

mparrish@missoulacounty.us

From: Mary Parrish <mparrish@missoulacounty.us>

Subject: Resident Feedback Portal: MCPS

Date: October 13, 2020 at 4:49:22 PM MDT

To: Hatton Littman <hlittman@mcpsmt.org>

Cc: Cindy Farr <cfarr@missoulacounty.us>, Ellen Leahy <eleahy@missoulacounty.us>

Hi Hatton,

Please see a comment submitted to us through the resident feedback portal on 10/9. The individual did not provide contact information. Sharing for your records and reference.

Thank you,

Mary

--

I teach and coach with MCPS. I am concerned that things are getting worse because of our schools and I think we should go back to online learning. You guys are the only entity that can keep MCPS honest. Please, please, please! We shouldn't be in school. Kids are getting sick. Teachers are getting sick. We can get through another year online and we should. Our superintendent doesn't listen to us and our school board votes with him. How many more cases do we have to get before we realize it's out of control and the schools are major contributors? Appreciate your efforts so far and hoping you can help us now!

--

Mary Parrish, MS

Public Information Officer - COVID-19 Response

Accreditation and Training Coordinator

Missoula City-County Health Department

406-830-5363 (PIO cell)

mparrish@missoulacounty.us