

Date	Comment
23-Apr	It's incredibly irresponsible to loosen social distancing requirements and jeopardize all of the hard work we have all been putting in to slow this down and protect ourselves and neighbors. My son will not be returning to school this year and the lack of consideration for the low/mid income and working class of missoula is frustrating. Don't do this. Let's try to learn something here for once and not kowtow to a vocal minority of people who clearly value economic constructs over human life.
23-Apr	Keep schools closed. The teachers have already had to change their curriculum once, its not worth it for a few weeks.
23-Apr	<p>I am both a mother with school aged children as well as a therapist working with children and families. I have underlying health conditions that could cause severe complications should I contract covid 19. I believe we are, as of yet, in the early stages of this pandemic and that the worst is still to come. I believe by reopening businesses and schools, we send the wrong message, that the danger has passed. I know that is not what governor Bullock nor the health department has said, but not everyone listens to their regular updates and actions speak louder than words. I provide mental health support to people in our community, some of whom are essential workers, some of whom are teachers, and what I hear from them is that they are scared. They recognize that they are putting their health and well being in the hands of the community whom they serve and they do not trust that some people are currently taking adequate precautions and fear what is going to happen when we open things up further.</p> <p>Additionally I am greatly concerned for the well being of my children, my child clients and their families and the staff of MCPS. A tremendous amount has been asked of staff in the last month and a half and they have risen to the significant challenge. To ask them to change what has just begun to work and to add in the additional intensive measures that will be required to keep everyone safe is too much in what will ultimately be such a short period of time. A few weeks of in person instruction is not worth the risk to families. I understand that this pandemic is not over and that it is to be expected that many more people will become infected. That the purpose of shelter at home was not to entirely prevent this, but to flatten the curve so that our medical facilities did not become overwhelmed, but I also feel that Missoula was and will continue to find ways to make things work, for everybody, for as long as it takes, because we believe every life is worthwhile. I believe we should be focusing on helping our businesses find ways in which to be innovative regarding how they flex and change to offer services in this new normal, so that we may continue to support our economy while keeping people safe.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration!</p>
23-Apr	Until we have the ability for anyone who wants a test to get one, we should not be lifting restrictions, especially in places where people gather like churches, schools, and parks.
23-Apr	Keep schools closed. Requires any business's that open to use and provide masks. It's too soon.
23-Apr	<p>I think it is dangerous and irresponsible to begin reopening Missoula businesses and schools so soon. Distancing is still vital and to do so will put countless Missoula residents at risk. The promising numbers we are seeing are only because of these distancing measures, and to lift them too soon will reverse all of our progress and lead to a shutdown that will ultimately be longer and more damaging in the long term. As a service industry worker, as much as I would love to be back at work, I don't feel comfortable returning to my workplace and putting myself and others at risk. I strongly urge Missoula County government to extend the closures of restaurants, bars, and schools.</p>
23-Apr	<p>The reopening of businesses and schools could be detrimental to the health of our residents. If we reopen and our cases spike, we could have to start this process all over again.</p> <p>Businesses may not be able to bounce back from this twice.</p>

23-Apr	Following state recommendations for opening businesses, bars, and schools will put your constituents in danger. People will be forced to decide: should I (1) go back to work in unsafe conditions where I am not supplied with adequate PPE by my boss because it is not required by my state or local government, or do I (2) lose my job, lose access to CARES Act relief, and also become ineligible unemployment. THIS IS NEGLIGENCE. You are (once again) stating that the economy - aka profit for business owner's on the Governor's advisory council, such as Nick Checota - is more important than the lives and safety of everyday people.
23-Apr	I am a business owner. I am concerned about other owners not adhering to increased health and safety practices to protect the public. I am concerned about other employers requiring their employees to return to work even if they have high risk family members at home to protect. What job protection should they have? This does directly effect my business and my family. I have 2 high risk members of family that live with me. With the increased contact rate, how can we better protect the members of our high risk community? If we opened much slower, with wait times between to see rate of increase, I would be behind it. If there was protection for employees that shouldn't be going to work, then I would support more opening. My suggested solution would be that businesses must submit a plan of action in order to open. This plan should address the concerns previously mentioned, plus how they will enforce social distancing. If plan is approved, then they can open. I feel this is fair. On one other note, I feel that it would be very irresponsible to open our large school districts at this point. They would only be in school for 5 weeks. The transition back alone would be difficult for our children. The health risks and rate of transmission into households worry me. Finally, expecting teachers to accommodate for BOTH in class and distant learning would be an impossible ask. I do believe that we should start to reopen our state, i just feel that we must be prudent in the way it is done. Thank you for your time.
23-Apr	I think that if the schools are reopened at all this semester, the board should consider only letting limited students and a great way to do that would be to only reopen for 5th grade, 8th grade and seniors. All students who will need to adjust to a new atmosphere this coming fall. This would make social distancing at the schools much easier. As for the other students, I think they should continue remote learning through remainder of the semester. With that they should also try to consider more summer school programs to a mass amount of students whom will most likely or already have fallin behind.
23-Apr	Schools should not reopen. It is dangerous.
23-Apr	Restarting school for a short 4 weeks before summer begins after making all the teachers rewrite their cirriculum seems Unfair and difficult to students aNd teachers. Making them responsible of keeping children 6 feet apart Not only seems impossible but breaking everything we have been instilling in our kids for the last 6 weeks. One of my daughters has severe disabilities and is immune suppressed, my other daughter has grown in compassion Towards her and our family has grown stronger during this time. Working and school is very important but not at the risk of my daughters life. I hope we can all grow from this experience in a positive way but I don't want my 12 year old crying because she is afraid to be around my immune suppressed 17 year old daughter after Being at school all day, Please reconsider this reckless decision.
23-Apr	Please do not open the school's back up this school year. It can and should wait until fall. Our children's health is so much more important than learning a little extra at the end of the year. Focus only on kids not passing for the rest of this year and let the rest of them start summer break now.

23-Apr	It's irresponsible to open up so soon, particularly because we don't have adequate testing, tests for antibodies, or a vaccine. I am also deeply concerned for low paid workers who will be forced to go back to work or lose unemployment, even if they fear for their safety. How will you ensure that workers who feel unsafe, those who have compromised immunity, and those who may have a family member with compromised immunity will be able to protect themselves and their family if they are forced to go back to work? I think it's particularly absurd to open schools and churches at this time.
23-Apr	I am very worried that we will ease social distancing guidelines and open businesses and public spaces too soon. I am particularly worried about the schools reopening, I think they should be closed for the rest of the year.
23-Apr	I think it is important that Missoula County take steps to maintain social distancing as much as possible including keeping non-essential places of business closed or enacting strict regulations to prevent the spread of infection for those reopened under the Governor's order. Elementary and High School should remained closed for the rest of the school year, and the college should be encouraged to do the same.
23-Apr	<p>I appreciate your guidance and leadership through this difficult time.</p> <p>I feel that you will make sound decisions, but feel that there is pressure to open the schools back up. I do not believe that this can be done safely, while following the other guidelines in the opening plan, with their current resources.</p> <p>Thank you for your time</p>
23-Apr	In light of the recent Governor's announcement, I am greatly concerned about the timing of schools and businesses potentially reopening too quickly. I am a mom of two children, one is second grade at this time, my other who was born premature with compromised health. Although it is very sad for my son to miss school, I wonder if the risk is worth the number of weeks left of this school year if his elementary is reopened. I think that kids would be unable to keep the social distancing outlined in the Governor's outlined safety recommendations, not to mention the amount of families that one sick child/teacher can put at risk. And then with businesses: Missoula has done so well at trying to minimize the impact of COVID-19 and I am concerned that reopening things could cause an increase in cases. I can already see that there is more traffic out at this time than when the Shelter in Place started, more people are at stores and on the streets. With the County Health department still noting new COVID-19 cases, it seems like it could be necessary to continue precautions instead of decreasing them, for everyones health and safety. Thanks for listening to our concerns! I hope that Missoula County will continue to make decisions based on the facts, science, and direction from the health care providers when discussing a plan to decrease any Shelter in Place safety guidelines. Let's not allow the curve to rise again due to people's expressed impatience with their limitations. Thank you!
23-Apr	I believe that schools should continue doing remote learning for the remainder of the 2019/2020 school year. I work in healthcare at a local hospital and feel that reopening schools, restaurants, etc. too early is putting our most vulnerable Montanans at risk. While I do agree that the reopening of businesses and other things should be done in phases, I feel it is too early to begin that process. The health and safety of all Montana residents should be the top concern, as there is nothing more valuable than human life.

23-Apr	<p>We would like to see a more cautious plan with more widespread public testing, an extended stay at home period, extended closures, and no school opening this season. My husband is a research scientist, working in part on COVID-19 vaccine formulation. We believe science and safety should dictate for the long-term benefit to our community. It is far from over. Locating and isolating cases needs to happen to further reduce community spread . Due to asymptomatic carriers, widespread testing of employees must be considered before returning to work to keep the public safe. Non-essential public gatherings should be banned until testing shows that new outbreaks are not likely. Our numbers have only peaked for stay-at-home conditions and we will see those numbers climb when we begin to gather again. Please give our researchers more time to work for a vaccine. Please don't ask our health care workers to risk their lives for non-essential activities. Please remember the immunocompromised, the elderly and low wage earners, and all who will have to take the risk without control over their exposure. You are that control and protection. Human lives are more important than economics. Thank you for your updates and efforts to ensure our health and safety.</p>
23-Apr	<p>Please keep everyone’s safety a priority. Maintaining the shelter at home , keeping schools closed, using masks, etc are important to help ensure this. We’ve done pretty well containing this virus, let’s keep it that way.</p>
24-Apr	<p>Please consider to NOT reopen business and schools. Missoula has been done so well this last month and a half. If we do open schools, who is going to be sure that kids are not going to act like vectors of the virus and spread it FAST all over town? Kids can not be contained, will not use masks or be proactive on the hand washing/not touching surfaces/not sharing, etc, because they are KIDS! Schools are PACKED and that's a fact. Schools are places with too many people at the same time, where sanitation at the level that this virus requires can not be attained.</p> <p>The school year has only one more month left. Teachers have already developed online assignments and they should be able to finish the school year like that. That way we are controlling a good amount of Missoula population and keeping them safe and at home, meaning that all those families have less chances of getting the virus from their own kids, which we all know now, are mostly asymptomatic when having the virus.</p> <p>Business can not control the spread of the virus unless there are clear and enforced control guidelines, and we have not seeing or heard anything of that sort yet. We need to keep taking care of each other as a community. We need to keep everybody at home until MT shows no cases.</p> <p>People needs to eat and pay their bills, and that should be solved by the State if not by the Federal Government. We need better ways to help people survive this crisis, and opening business and schools is not the way to do it.</p>
24-Apr	<p>I am in support of not opening the schools until we have a chance to prepare for the safety of all students and staff, hopefully this can happen by next fall.</p>
24-Apr	<p>In regard to opening up schools and non essential businesses, particularly those that require physical contact like hair salons and massage: please don’t. Think about it like this, currently the band Insane Clown Posse(look them up if you don’t know about them) has decided to cancel their yearly event because they refuse to put “even one juggalo life at risk” (juggalos are the title used by their fan base) and you are willing to put the lives of our children, the lives of their families at risk for no other reason than the economy. I honestly can’t believe that I live in a world where ICP is more reasonable and concerned for human life than my own county government. It’s disgraceful, it’s embarrassing, it’s disgusting. Pretending that everything is fine is exactly how we got into this mess to begin with, let’s not repeat our mistakes because we’re worried about a handful of rich people who want us to go back to making them money while they hide out at home and let the rest of us die.</p>

24-Apr	<p>It's upsetting in a state riddled with mental illness and suicide to see liquor stores open as "essential services," and to hear bars will be opening soon. Aside from the threat of a spike in COVID-19 cases, opening bars at this time increases the chances of Montanans committing suicide.</p> <p>Additionally, I believe it's irresponsible to put others' lives at risk for the sake of convenience. Is a life worth less than having a business open?</p> <p>Any expert who has studied past pandemics will tell you that closing businesses and schools are imperative to keeping populations safe. People are angry, and they'll continue to be angry, but at least they're alive.</p>
24-Apr	<p>I don't think we should be starting to open businesses, churches, and especially public schools this soon. If you start a phased opening the work we as a community have done in flattening the curve will be lost. I hate to see so much pressure from Montana citizens who don't understand how the virus works bullying our government officials to open the state.</p> <p>Let's keep the momentum of saving lives by keeping the stay at home order in place for a few more weeks.</p>
24-Apr	<p>As someone at higher risk from serious complications from the coronavirus, I would strongly encourage Missoula County to maintain as many stay-at-home practices as possible, including keeping our schools and campuses closed. While I understand this is a balance of protecting public health and local economies (I lost a job opportunity before Montana's stay-in-place order went into place), I disagree with Governor Bullock's plan to reopen the state this soon. Putting the responsibility of at-risk individuals like myself to take care of ourselves by continuing to isolate, while the rest of the state starts getting back to business as usual, makes little sense and I think is unfair and unsafe to us. Even though new cases have been related to already-known cases in quarantine, reopening businesses this early feels like it would exponentially increase the spread if even a handful of undiagnosed cases are out in our communities. Finally, I worry that people will interpret these orders as a move "back to normal," and abandon their social distancing and hygiene practices like keeping at least six feet away from other people and wearing masks in public spaces, all of which put me and others at a higher risk.</p>
24-Apr	<p>As a parent, I have grave concerns about re-opening the schools for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year. Little is still know about this virus and, although not in a high risk group, children are susceptible. Recently, a five year old in Michigan passed away due to Covid-19. I do not believe that the current staffing levels of our public educational system provided for the resources needed to ENSURE social distancing is followed, especially in the younger, elementary aged children. Also, I do not feel there is logistically enough space at any of the MPCS facilities to accommodate CDC social distancing guidelines, including the six-feet-apart in every direction. With so much scientifically yet to learn about this virus and the lack of both a vaccine and any form of herd immunity - I feel compelled to state that it is not worth the risk of a child's life, plus increasing community spread, plus endangering the lives of high risk family members and teachers to re-open the schools for the mere few weeks that are left.</p>
24-Apr	<p>Please follow the guidance from all the health professionals and stay closed longer until we have widespread testing to understand the spread in our community. We don't need to risk the progress we've made by opening things up. And there is no way places like hair salons can adequately social distance and they are already thinking about ways to get around the Governor's rules . Please encourage the school district to remain closed for the remainder of the school year as kids do not social distance and are vectors for spreading disease. Also essential workers should be required to wear adequate masks.</p>
24-Apr	<p>Please follow the guidance from all the health professionals and stay closed longer until we have widespread testing to understand the spread in our community. We don't need to risk the progress we've made by opening things up. And there is no way places like hair salons can adequately social distance and they are already thinking about ways to get around the Governor's rules . Please encourage the school district to remain closed for the remainder of the school year as kids do not social distance and are vectors for spreading disease. Also essential workers should be required to wear adequate masks</p>

24-Apr	The shelter in place has not lifted yet and people are already ignoring those orders. If we open too soon we risk spreading at a faster rate. I know of several people with signs of covid who have not been tested and told to return home. We all want our friends to go back to work but opening now seems like a waste of our efforts. Schools especially should remain distant learning .
24-Apr	<p>It's important that science guides decisions made when it comes to the response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Stay at Home directive is proof that implementing early aggressive actions to ensure the safety of our community works.</p> <p>Based on the information we have about the virus, it is imperative that we not let the safety of our community be influenced by the bullying of those myopically focused on selfish reasoning. Also, we need to seriously consider the impact of decisions on those most vulnerable - how will we ensure companies take the necessary steps to protect their employees when business is reopened? How are vulnerable children going to be protected by opening schools too soon? How are we going to continue to protect the unhoused, those who have lost hours or jobs? How are small businesses going to be protected over big corporations.</p> <p>We need to be prudent when considering when to begin a phase in re-opening and we need more testing availability before we do so.</p>
24-Apr	Please do not allow the re-opening of bars, restaurants, tattoo shops, salons , daycare centers, and other places where the employees will be put at risk from close, prolonged contact with multiple customers until there is adequate testing, resources for contact tracing, and other science-based methods of limiting the spread of Covid 19. Prematurely allowing these places to go back into business is just a recipe for disaster, rendering pointless all the economic and personal sacrifices we have already made over the last weeks. Missoula County does not have adequate testing capabilities to ensure public safety if people begin mingling in enclosed spaces again, nor the hospital capacity to care for all the people who will require care during the inevitable outbreak. Service industry workers are disproportionally represented among low-income workers and will be forced to choose between their lives and their livelihood, while their employers get to take advantage of tax breaks, and other bailouts from the safety of their living rooms. f the Health Dept says these places can open again and the employees refuse to put their lives and their family's lives at risk, they can be fired and will not be eligible for unemployment. Furthermore, if the public schools decide to do the responsible thing and keep school age children from becoming disease vectors to their family members, these low income service workers will have no childcare, yet will still not be eligible for unemployment. Due to their socio-economic status, low-income workers are already at higher risk for complications and will rapidly fill the hospitals with critically ill patients who cannot pay their giant medical bills, thus placing an even greater burden on the State. Prematurely allowing indoor social venues such as bars and restaurants, or industries that necessarily require close physical contact such as massage, tattooing, and salons will also put all those customers and their families at risk, should even one other customer or their service worker be infected. If daycare centers are allowed to re-open to the general workforce, and begin caring for the children of at-risk, low income service workers those children, who cannot be expected to practice physical distancing or strict hygiene, will pass their infections to the children of essential workers in the health care fields, with obvious consequences. Imagine if the child of even one nursing home employee brought home Covid 19 to their parent through daycare contact! The Missoula County Health Department literally holds the lives and deaths of thousands of citizens in your hands. Please, do not let political pressure or economic false equivalencies take precedence over science and sound Public Health decision-making. Thank you
24-Apr	Opening now would be devastating. My 16 yr old child will go back to school and bring this virus home. Im asthmatic my son isnt healthy (underlying issues) and His father passed away last year and I'm all he has. I will refuse to send him back to school. I still see 100's of cars on the road and people shopping for non essential items. Doing this might make some people feel free again, while making others hide forever due to catching this virus and dying. Keep our montana people safe and out of state people stay away. This Bullock 3 phase process needs to be when we dont have any new cases for 3 days! And even then, someone from ny went back home to china and re-introduced this virus . No opening early!

24-Apr	<p>I feel that it is too soon to open both non-essential businesses and schools. Prematurely allowing the public to mingle will cause a spike in cases and undo all the hard work and low amount of cases that came from the shelter in place order. As a retail worker, I personally don't feel safe having to go back to work in an environment where the much of the public aren't taking this health crisis seriously. Many people are not engaging in any safety gear or precautions when I have had to go out and conduct essential personal errands. I am practicing social distancing and wearing a mask in public, but I will still get sick no matter how strictly I observe safety precautions if I have to go to work prematurely with no standards of safety to adhere to other than vague suggestions given by political pundits.</p>
24-Apr	<p>I would like to advocate for a continued stay-at-home order, or at the very least, a slower reopening than has been allowed by the governor. I don't think schools should be allowed to open for the rest of the school year. It is terrifying to know that even if we have low case numbers, and relatively high recovery rates, that the science community is still rapidly learning new things about the virus. I thought we were going to need 14 days of declining case numbers, coupled with accessible rapid testing to be able to trust those numbers, in order to lift any restrictions. As far as I know, it hasn't even 14 days since we have HAD more available testing at the fairgrounds, and anecdotally, folks who have been tested have had to wait over 4 days to get their results. With all this combined, I don't understand how we can be confident enough to change any of our protective measures at this point. If you haven't heard the analogy about the parachute, I think it is quite applicable. "Lifting COVID-19 restrictions now is like a skydiver realizing their parachute has started to slow their descent, and decides he might as well take it off."</p>
24-Apr	<p>Please proceed with more caution than the Governor's plan. Especially in regard to Bars and Schools. As an area with more population than most of Montana, outbreaks are way more likely to occur here. We are not the highline or eastern Montana where his directives make much more sense. The risk of opening school seems too high for the four weeks that they will receive education. Bars are where the spread of this disease will take off and people will have the hardest time practicing social distancing.</p> <p>Thanks for all your hard work and local leadership!</p>

24-Apr	<p>My family is trying desperately to protect my husband, who will very likely die if he's infected with the coronavirus. He is immunocompromised and has severely reduced lung function due to an ongoing, 7 year-long battle with metastasized bone cancer. In the absence of reliable, effective treatments for Covid-19, we cannot risk bringing the coronavirus into our home, so aside from total self-isolation for the past 6 weeks, we must now rely on the decisions of others to protect him.</p> <p>My sons are local high school students. It is my sincere hope that the Missoula County Health Department advises MCPS school board to make the safe &amp; prudent choice NOT to reopen schools for the remaining 6 weeks of this academic year. I believe the choice to bring students back together in classrooms, crowded hallways &amp; shared bathrooms puts our entire community at grave risk. Should schools reopen, my 2 students will not be able to return to class and will have to continue remote learning (also missing any in-person graduation ceremony).</p> <p>We also desperately need a city-wide campaign, which STRONGLY encourages or mandates the public to wear masks to protect the vulnerable. People are confused, thinking that they should only wear a mask if they're sick, or not personally at risk. I'm so disappointed by what I see every day as I've worked from my kitchen table for the past 6 weeks. No one walking or riding their bikes is wearing any kind of face covering. As businesses begin to re-open, there will be community spread, especially if masks aren't used and these choices could lead to more illness and death.</p> <p>Thank you for considering my comments and for making the safety of our community your top priority. We can't be "all in this together" unless we are willing to make sacrifices to protect the lives of those most vulnerable.</p>
24-Apr	<p>Remember 1918. Re-opening too soon will result in a second wave. More people will die. Re-opening now is a short-sighted solution to a bigger problem. It will be BETTER for the economy long term to remain closed and re-open when there is widespread testing for ALL residents, not just those who are symptomatic. Please remain closed. *ESPECIALLY* the schools.</p>
24-Apr	<p>First, many thanks for the thoughtful and deliberate actions that have helped to keep Missoulians safer.</p> <p>My hope as a citizen is that Missoula is slow to reopen business as usual. I hope that people are not forced to go back to work front line jobs at the peril of their families' health. I hope that kids are not sent back to schools, where this virus could take up a swift and unforgiving front. I hope that creative solutions like neighborhood internet hot spots, neighborhood organizing efforts, and fierce advocacy from our elected officials to extend lifeline relief efforts like the increase to SNAP benefits and unemployment be the first and most aggressively pursued priorities.</p> <p>I also hope that decisions are made with everyday people at the table. Any decision-making body regarding the reopening of Missoula should have citizen representation equal to the representation of C-suite business representatives and elected officials.</p>
24-Apr	<p>I do not think the schools or high traffic businesses should be opening up. We will see an increase in cases of Covid-19. Please support the social services continuing to work and support vulnerable populations at this time.</p>
24-Apr	<p>I would like schools to remain closed until next fall. The online instruction seems to be working OK and the risk of having students return for less than a month does not seem a wise choice, in my opinion.</p>



24-Apr	<p>In the last couple of days I have been making phone calls to people who use and volunteer at the Food Bank. The purpose was to determine how the pandemic has been affecting that population, many of whom have been hard hit. The governor's announcement about phased reopening came while I was making calls, and several people responded with concern that this was premature--especially for schools and for bars and other gathering places that serve alcohol. They felt that it was unrealistic and unsafe to reopen schools and those establishments. (Apparently many schools have already decided not to reopen.)</p> <p>I share those concerns. I read the details published in the Missoulian, and think it is quite unrealistic to think people in bars, breweries, etc., will be able to observe social distancing or will wear masks. What good does it do to limit the number of people at a table if one of them is a carrier without symptoms? How does the proprietor determine what 50% of usual numbers is? I truly sympathize with the owners of these establishments, but we are still seeing more covid-19 cases in the state. Please let us not rush into this reopening because of our isolation and frustration. More cases, more deaths would be far worse.</p>
24-Apr	<p>We should keep schools closed for the rest of this year to ensure the safety of our community. Please continue efforts to make sure everyone who needs to be tested can get tested, and have access to basic sanitation supplies and ppe. Thank you! Please protect our most vulnerable citizens: people with disabilities, people living in poverty, healthcare workers, and other working class people who are working on the front lines.</p>
24-Apr	<p>Please do not rush into this. Please do not start school again for this school year. Bars and restaurants and hair stylists are hardly essential. Instead, prepare for and brace for the influx of tourists bringing the virus with them.</p>
24-Apr	<p>I think phasing in reopening of bars, restaurants, and schools at this time is an ok thing to do. So far, the guidelines and recommendations from the Missoula County Health Dept. seem reasonable. I believe that these recommendations should stay as best practices and not all of these restrictions should be blanketed across the industry. For example, bar service in an orderly line can be a lot safer and easier to control/clean than table service. Establishments should be able to create their own safety plans that fit the space and service needs appropriately while following Health Department guidelines. With the reopening of bars and restaurants, the onus remains on individuals to keep our community healthy within these settings. Even with compliant establishments, individuals who are not conducting themselves in a safe or sanitary way (continuing to create social distance, utilizing appropriate hand washing), will certainly create health problems.</p> <p>While our community has suffered relatively little because of our early shelter-in-place restrictions. I believe Covid-19 will continue to spread without appropriate testing for more individuals that can track and quarantine those with the virus. More testing is in order before we will know assuredly if we are going to continue to remain healthy and haven't simply delayed the onset of the virus in Missoula.</p>
24-Apr	<p>I hope that the county and city will delay opening schools until next fall. I think it's too difficult to protect the children, their families, and anyone they may meet with. It's an epidemic waiting to happen.</p> <p>As far as businesses go, I hope any businesses that can delay opening will do so to prevent the virus from spreading. There are many sanitation and distancing policies businesses should put in place if they are going to open. Those of us who want to stay out of businesses/restaurants, etc. can do so or wear a mask when attending those businesses. I hope Employees of businesses that open will be given leave to stay away from work, if they are worried.</p>
24-Apr	<p>No way are kids going to keep face coverings in place all day. Social distancing? Only if classrooms are 1/3 full. Or if there's a rotating schedule. And not go to the playground? How do you contain their energy? Watching neighbors kids: they are running free in their backyards all day. If small groups came in and teachers checked with them for lessons maybe. Take temperatures and wash hands. I agree with keeping schools closed until next fall.</p>

	I think it is too soon for kids to go back to school on May 7. Which is also a Thursday. At the very least make it Monday May 10th. Fresh start to the week. Regardless I do t see the sense in going back to school for 4 weeks. Not worth the risk at this point. Typically the last ten days are full of parties, classroom cleaning and passive activities. Also not worth it.
24-Apr	I am concerned about bars and restaurants opening. We have done so well to contain the virus in our county. It would be a shame to instigate an outbreak of our own making.
24-Apr	Please reopen activity as soon as possible. Our cases are so low and with the correct precautions, there is no reason our economy and businesses cannot reopen as soon as possible.  Please also encourage schools to reopen as well.
24-Apr	It is my belief that we have kept our infection numbers low because of the active participation of businesses and residents in maintaining the stay at home model and wearing masks in public and keeping the suggested six foot distance from others. We must be very careful as we begin to have businesses opening that we all continue to follow the CDC rules. I don't believe that the schools should reopen until fall.
24-Apr	Please do not reopen. We need to Continue to shelter in place based off of information of what we know on this virus. Do not open bars and restaurants or school!!!
24-Apr	I am concerned that we reopen too soon and that phase 1 step of reopening schools is particularly dangerous without widespread, free testing. With 5 weeks left in the school year it seems irresponsible to gamble with the outcome of reopening by connecting 70-80 percent of our community via contacts through the schools.
24-Apr	Phase 1 just shouldn't happen yet. School should continue as is with remote learning. Keep the open businesses as is. No new openings until May15 and then re-address.
24-Apr	1)Don't start school- it could end in tragedy and to responsibly do it the schools need time to plan 2) Insist that Dailys meatpacking plant follow social distancing, mask wearing 3) provide nursing homes with tests for employees/ residents, and masks for all. 4) Test and socially distance incarcerated people 5) Consider closing downtown streets for cars do we can have socially distant Saturday markets
24-Apr	I'm in favor of a slowly phased reopening, Continue social distancing, handwashing, and caution. Watch our case numbers very carefully. Make antibody testing as widely available as possible. But let's get started. I would not open schools this year, but I would allow restaurants open under careful scrutiny for handwashing, distance between tables, limited group size.

24-Apr	<p>Hello. My daughter is a senior at Sentinel High School. I have friends who own a small business in Missoula. I am concerned about the early opening of things starting on Monday, April 27th. I think it's too soon and fear we will see a sharp rise in cases. There aren't enough tests as it is, and there are very likely people infected or carrying it who don't even know it because they can't be tested unless hospitalized or needing treatment. If they just start back to business as usual, the problem will quickly become much worse.</p> <p>I think that schools should remained closed for the rest of the year. Although my daughter is a senior and I feel bad for her, I believe that everyone going back to school too soon is risky. Schools are breeding grounds for illness in the best of times. During a pandemic, it seems irresponsible to open them back up. Please consider advising closure of schools for the rest of the year.</p>
24-Apr	<p>As a physician, I have significant concerns about an overreaction in the public to precautions and would employee the city and county to take a firm #KeepItCoveredMissoula stance while we ease some of the restrictions. I am in favor of a VERY measured re-opening, and while sympathetic to the economic needs of our community and tax base, it must be balanced against the health of the community. Reopening schools with a couple weeks left has no real educational defense, and the only practical benefit would be to provide (very temporary) child care for people who need to return to work, but this would come at significant exposure and transmission cost. I would like to see an enforceable directive that all businesses that are open have masked employees, and perhaps even mandating that all customers wear masks (starting with “essential” businesses that even the most vulnerable cannot avoid, like grocery stores). It is unthinkable that grandma needs be exposed to some cavalier citizen who refuses to social distance or wear a mask in order for her to get food at the store.</p>
24-Apr	<p>Please do not allow MCPS to re-open the schools for only a few weeks. This is an unacceptable risk to students, staff and all of their relatives. Just today, over 50,000 people have died from COVID-19 in the U.S.. We have been fortunate in Montana so far, but that does not mean we should now put people's lives at risk. Thank you!</p>
24-Apr	<p>I love my job and since my employer has let me know we are getting ready to go back to work I absolutely will and will not complain in doing so. I do, however, feel an absolute lack of certainty for the safety for myself and my coworkers as well the customers that we may be serving. My industry relies heavily on being busy to make ends meet and my place of work is the same. We were one of the first to willingly close our doors from my understanding and did so fairly early on but many other businesses around town seemed unwilling to take this situation as seriously as was being advised. Since the shutdown I’ve heard of several businesses trying to reopen or operate without enforcing the social distancing guidelines. I’m all for getting back to work safely, I’m just not put at ease by the loose parameters of these guidelines. I’m worried for myself and my family. I’m worried that it’s too early to open some businesses and especially schools. I really don’t see how in the world a middle school would be able to establish and enforce social distancing measures especially with only one month left of the year. I don’t mean to tell anyone else how to live or do their job, I’m just a concerned citizen, parent, and employee In Missoula asking for reasonable measures to ensure the public’s safety.</p> <p>Thank you for your time.</p>
24-Apr	<p>I have appreciated the choices made by Governor Bullock to put health first through the Shelter in place orders last month. As we begin to consider a phased re-opening my opinion is to do so with great caution; we have had a low number of cases, my hope is that would continue. I would suggest that as we begin to open non-essential businesses, we would refrain from opening schools and gathering places for at least a few weeks until we have a better idea of what will happen with the the spread of Covid. A very difficult situation indeed - am praying for all our leaders. Thank you for serving Missoula county.</p>

25-Apr	<p>1. Give HS seniors their commencement. Let them walk across the stage in cap and gown. Stagger each HS commencement day. Group students by home room, or activity group. Let family members observe wearing masks, etc in smaller groups.</p> <p>2. Returning to school. Let low risk teachers and students have an opportunity to wrap up the year in person. Stagger it by grade over a week. Not every class at school at the same time. In the fall, have shorter school days, and shorten the school week. Have smaller class sizes. High risk students should stay home and get academic support. high risk teachers /staff may have to be furloughed until it's recommended they return to work. School is a haven for some students that have no support at home. If school remains online there will be students who drop out and/or possibly suffer abuse or neglect. The schools and FRC's provide just as much support for parents and guardians. Don't forget that.</p> <p>3. Restaurants and retail, salons, etc. can provide services that incorporate safe distances, and sanitizer to protect employees and the public. Sports venues can limit capacity, providing sanitizer, take temperatures, etc to protect people.</p> <p>4. Have Missoula city/county hire more healthcare workers that go into schools and provide screening and education about the virus.</p> <p>5. Offer the same screenings to high risk people, home bound, homelessness, and anyone that wants it.</p>
25-Apr	<p>This has to be a slow methodical opening I don't think churches should be open or anything where people can gather indoors Please do not open the schools Restaurants breweries and bars should not open even with social distancing. You can't wear a mask and eat and drink at the same time plus with alcohol people loosen up Pick up or delivery only I do approve and like what Gov Bullock is doing just don't jump the gun</p>
25-Apr	<p>I really appreciate how seriously Missoula officials are taking the Covid-19 pandemic. Please don't re-open MCPS this school year. It's not worth the risk! It's been a struggle for all of us, but re-opening is not going to help the situation. What's more, since many students wouldn't attend school even if it were open, teachers will be forced to create both online and in-person curriculum. We've already asked so much of our teachers, and that would just be too much. Missoula is doing a great job with pandemic response – let's keep it up!</p>
25-Apr	<p>Hello, As a long time Missoula County resident and a person at high risk for Covid-19, I am very concerned about this county opening too fast. We need at least 2 more weeks of isolation. We have not flattened the curve enough at this time.</p> <p>I especially think that health spas, crowded restaurants and schools will put us at risk.</p> <p>Friday I saw the streets fill up with cars, groups talking in close proximity and kids playing sports in parks. Everyone is tired of this isolation but the excitement about opening our businesses is palpable, We want too much too fast.</p> <p>Masks and distancing do not work in restaurants or health spas or schools. Please keep Missoula County in tighter control for 2 weeks longer or more if needed. Thank you</p>
25-Apr	<p>I think that the schools should re-open since we're past our surge. I also think that playgrounds should re-open. And while I don't agree 100% with Governor's phased opening (what do people who work in the first phase of opening businesses do if the school's aren't open?), I think it is a workable plan that I get behind. But schools and playgrounds should re-open immediately. Thank you for soliciting citizen opinions.</p>