

## **COVID-19 FAQ for Tourism Partners & Lodging Properties**

***Updated April 24, 2020***

On April 22, Governor Bullock announced a phased approach to reopening Montana. Governor Bullock has asked all of us to continue to do our part to protect our fellow Montanans and remain vigilant to slow the spread of COVID-19 in Montana.

Governor Bullock has directed that travelers arriving from another state or country to Montana for non-work-related purposes to undergo a self-quarantine for 14 days, or the duration of their trip to Montana—whichever is shorter. This travel quarantine remains in place for the duration of the governor's declared emergency.

The full directive is [linked here](#).

### **What is the hotel or lodging property's responsibility when it comes to traveler quarantines?**

To post a notice of the 14-day self-quarantine for travelers visiting on non-work-related purposes.

Lodging facilities should follow best sanitation practices as recommended by the CDC. (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/disinfecting-building-facility.html> )

The Department of Commerce has a printable notice available upon the lodging property's request.

### **How long is the travel quarantine in place?**

As announced April 22, the 14-day travel quarantine will be in place for the duration of the emergency, or until a directive declares otherwise.

### **Does this Directive include campgrounds?**

Campgrounds must post a notice of the 14-day self-quarantine and must comply with the social distancing requirements.

### **Who must quarantine?**

Any person coming to Montana from another state or country for a non-work-related purpose must immediately self-quarantine for 14 days. If a person will be present in Montana for fewer than 14 days, that person must self-quarantine for the duration of the visit.

Any person who has already arrived in Montana from another state or country for a non-work-related purpose before the date of this Directive must immediately self-quarantine for the remainder of a 14-day period beginning on the date of their arrival in Montana, or until their departure from Montana—whichever is sooner.

This directive applies to Montana residents and visitors alike.

**What economic effect will this have on Montana's tourism and recreation industry?**

Tourism is one of Montana's leading industries, supporting nearly 60,000 jobs. In 2018, more than 12.4 million non-resident visitors spent \$3.7 billion in our communities.

We are monitoring economic and industry trends related to this public health emergency in real-time. There's no doubt revenue from tourism will be negatively impacted, particularly with early season cancellations. We hope those visitors rebook when it's safe to do so.

It's too early to tell how this could impact our largest revenue-generating season – summer.

According to Destination Analysts Weekly Traveler Sentiment Index Report, which surveys the American traveler at weekly intervals 51 percent of respondents said they plan to start traveling again this fall. More and more travelers say they'll be seeking out regional, close-to-home destinations.

The Department of Commerce has the flexibility to change marketing strategies in near-real time. Our hope is that will be a benefit in being able to weather this public health emergency.

**Is the state still marketing Montana as a travel destination?**

Now is not the time to welcome visitors back to Montana. Visit Montana will continue to inspire travelers, so that when the time is right to travel, Montana will be top-of-mind.

**Is bringing the National Guard into the airports an overreach? What about rail stations?**

The order simply authorizes, not directs, the Montana National Guard to conduct temperature checks at Montana airports and rail stations and screen for potential exposure history for travelers arriving in Montana from another state or country. General Matthew Quinn will make the determination whether to send certain members of the Montana National Guard to assist in our state's response to COVID-19.

The Governor issued this directive, as with others, within the scope of the Montana State Constitution.

**Why are health care workers exempt from a travel quarantine?**

Health care workers and other travelers who come to Montana for essential work are exempt from this directive. Health care workers are on the frontlines, fighting COVID-19, and we want to do everything possible to ensure Montanans can access essential medical care.

### **Can I still go camping? Fishing?**

During phases 1 and 2 of Governor Bullock's plan to reopen Montana, public lands, fishing access sites and parks are encouraged to continue to provide outdoor recreation opportunities for local and regional users – as long as recreationists can adhere to social distancing guidelines.

That also includes hiking, biking, running, walking, and other outdoor activities that can be done near your home and at least six feet away from people who are not in your household.

Limited campground offerings, group-use facilities and playgrounds, may be opened at the discretion of local and state managers. Local, state and federal officials are strongly encouraged to coordinate on all reopening decisions.

It's worth noting, too, that private campgrounds have been able to remain open as long as they follow social distancing guidelines and post notice of the 14-day out of state quarantine.

Under the Phase 1 and 2 guidelines, areas that cannot practicably implement social distancing requirements or sanitation needs will remain closed. These types of closures are important to protecting both members of the public and the staff at these facilities.

Montanans need to use their good judgment when it comes to outdoor activities. If a trailhead is full, find another one.

### **Can guides and outfitters work?**

Under Phase 1 and 2 guidelines of Governor Bullock's plan to reopen Montana, guides and outfitters may offer services consistent with ongoing quarantine travel restrictions provided they also adhere to social distancing guidelines and sanitation protocols.

### **How can I stay updated on Montana COVID-19 efforts and see future directives?**

Check and direct visitors to the Visit Montana website for travel updates:

<https://www.visitmt.com/travel-alerts.html> or call 1-800-847-4868

### **Resources?**

If you are a **business owner** and have questions related to the April 22 announcement detailing the phased approach to reopening and how the plan applies to you directly, please call **1-800-755-6672**. The plan has been posted online at [covid19.mt.gov](https://covid19.mt.gov).

For all other questions related to COVID-19 call 1-888-333-0461, visit [COVID19.MT.GOV](https://COVID19.MT.GOV), or email [COVID19@mt.gov](mailto:COVID19@mt.gov).

**Visit Montana:** [VISITMT.COM](https://visitmt.com) or 1-800-847-4868

**Montana Department of Public Health and Human**

**Services:** <https://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/cdepi/diseases/coronavirusmt>

**Montana Disaster and Emergency Services** on: [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#)

**Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:** <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html>