NATRONA COUNTY HEALTH OFFICER
PUBLIC HEALTH ORDER 20-2

ORDER PROHIBITING CERTAIN PUBLIC GATHERINGS AND
CLOSING CERTAIN PUBLIC PLACES FOR LIMITED TIME PERIOD
WITHIN NATRONA COUNTY, WYOMING

WHEREAS, Dr. Mark E. Dowell, M.D. serves as the Natrona County
Health Officer and Dr. Ghazi Ghanem serves as a Deputy Natrona County Health
Officer pursuant to Wyo. Stat. Ann. § 35-1-306(a); and

WHEREAS, Wyoming Statute Ann. §§ 35-1-240(a)(i) and (iv) provides all
the rights and powers for the Wyoming Department of Health, through the State
Health Officer, Dr. Alexia Harrist, M.D., or under her directive through other
employees of the Wyoming Department of Health, to close theaters, schools, and
other public places when necessary to protect the public health; and

WHEREAS, as evidenced by her signature below, Dr. Alexia Harrist,
M.D., the Wyoming State Health Officer, has reviewed and directed the issuance
of this Order by Dr. Mark E. Dowell, Natrona County Health Officer; and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization declared the Coronavirus as a
worldwide pandemic as of March 11, 2020, and

WHEREAS, the President of the United States declared a national
emergency concerning the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) on March 13,
2020, specifically stating that in “December 2019 a novel (new) coronavirus
known as SARS-CoV-2 (“the virus”) was first detected in Wuhan, Hubei
Province, People’s Republic of China, causing outbreaks of the coronavirus
disease (COVID-19) that has now spread globally […] The spread of COVID-19
within our Nation’s communities threatens to strain our Nation’s healthcare
systems. […] Additional measures […] are needed to successfully contain and
combat the virus in the United States.” The National Emergency Declaration went
on to declare that the COVID-19 outbreak in the United States constitutes a
national emergency, and

WHEREAS, Mark Gordon, Governor of the State of Wyoming, declared a
State of Emergency and Public Health Emergency in the State of Wyoming on
March 13, 2020, stating that on March 11, 2020, an individual within the State of
Wyoming tested presumptive positive for COVID-19 and the State of Wyoming is
experiencing a public health emergency in response to the evolving outbreak of
the novel coronavirus as of March 11, 2020. The Declaration of a State of
Emergency and Public Health Emergency directs the Director of the Wyoming
Department of Health to take all appropriate and necessary actions and in the Director’s judgment any actions necessary to provide aid to those locations where there is a threat or danger to public health, safety and welfare; and

WHEREAS, it has been determined that a method to control the community spread of the coronavirus is to close certain public places; and

WHEREAS, this Order may reduce the likelihood that individuals that may have been exposed to COVID-19 will spread the virus to others, and therefore is entered to protect the health of the public. By reducing the spread of the virus, this Order will help preserve critical and limited healthcare capacity in Natrona County. This Order is further entered to prevent circumstances often present in public places that may exacerbate the spread of the virus such as: (1) the increased likelihood that gathering in a public place will attract people from a broader geographic area; (2) the prolonged time period in which significant numbers of people are in close proximity; (3) the difficulty in tracing exposure when many people attend a single public place; and (4) the inability to ensure that attendees follow adequate hygiene practices in public places; and

WHEREAS, implementation and limitations on public places and use of social distancing prevent initial exposure and secondary transmission to our most vulnerable populations, and are especially important for people over 60 years old and those with chronic health conditions due to the higher risk of severe illness from COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, per the new guidelines issued from the White House Government as of March 16, 2020, that with evidence of community transmission, bars, restaurants, food courts, gyms, and other indoor and outdoor venues where groups of people congregate should be closed; and


NOW THEREFORE, In Natrona County, Wyoming:

1. Any public gathering or event of 10 or more people is PROHIBITED.

2. All public gatherings or events are required to follow all health guidelines from the CDC and Wyoming Department of Health for limiting the risk of transmission of COVID-19,
3. This prohibition does not apply to day to day operations of healthcare facilities, nursing homes, group homes, grocery stores or household members.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED THAT the following establishments are hereby ordered closed immediately in Natrona County, Wyoming:

Beauty Salons;
Tattoo Parlors;
Child & Adult Amusement Centers, including but not limited to arcades, bingo parlors, off-track betting, adult entertainment establishments, and bowling alleys
Communal pools, hot tubs, locker rooms, saunas, steam rooms, fitness centers, conference rooms, and spas; and
Museums

IT IS FURTHER ORDER, that the Natrona County Health Officer may grant exceptions on a case by case basis after evaluating the request; and

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, that this Order shall remain in effect through April 3, 2020, or until such time as the Natrona County Health Officer enters an Order revoking or modifying this Order, under the direction and supervision of the State Health Officer; and

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, that any person or legal entity that violates this Order shall be subject to criminal prosecution under Wyo. Stat. Ann. §§ 35-1-105 and -106; and

Dr. Mark F. Dowell  
Natrona County Health Officer

Dr. Ghazi Ghanem  
Deputy Natrona County Health Officer

**Direction to Issue Order**

I, Dr. Alexia Harrist, the Wyoming State Health Officer, hereby state that I have reviewed the above Order and hereby direct, pursuant to Wyoming Statutes §§ 35-1-227 and -240(a)(i) and (iv), the Natrona County Health Officer to issue the above Order Closing Public Places and Placing Restrictions on Restaurants in Natrona County, Wyoming. As the State Health Officer, I specifically deem this order necessary to protect the public health due to the central location of Natrona County, its position as a hub of medical care in Wyoming and its position as the second largest county in Wyoming. I will reassess the necessity of this order as appropriate to do so and according to accepted epidemiological and medical standards.

Dr. Alexia Harrist  
Wyoming State Health Officer