



November 16, 2020

Montana Legislature
Helena, MT 59601

RE: Legislative Activities on November 18-19, 2020

Dear Montana Representatives and Senators,

As we anticipate with excitement legislative activities this week, Lewis and Clark Public Health recommends legislators consider virtual participation on both November 18th and 19th in order to provide the greatest amount of protection for legislative members, staff, and our community here in Helena. Reducing the number of people in the Capitol at one time will ultimately reduce the possibility that SARS-COV-2 will transmit as you gather to perform this important work. This request comes as the State of Montana as well as Lewis and Clark County are experiencing a sharp increase in daily COVID-19 case incidence, hospitals are stretched beyond capacity to serve our communities, and we are losing our neighbors, friends, and family to this disease.

For those who choose to participate in person, Legislative Services has laid out adequate public health precautions that if followed will also serve to limit the possibility the virus will spread in this environment but only if the overall census is reduced. We ask that you keep your distance, at least six feet, wear your face covering at all times, practice good hand hygiene, and regularly sanitize surfaces.

We appreciate your consideration on these matters.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Drenda Niemann".

Drenda Niemann, Health Officer
Lewis and Clark Public Health
1930 9th Avenue
Helena, MT 59601