

As a free people, we cherish our representative republic. Therefore, we challenge the wisdom of unelected and unaccountable appointed officials to issue Public Health Order 2020-3 in Goshen County and demand its immediate withdrawal. We further challenge the wisdom of the Governor's decision to cede his authority to unelected health officials to issue such orders under the current declarations of emergency in Wyoming. The Governor's decision allows for the suspension of constitutional rights by and through unelected and unaccountable health officials. This is unacceptable.

The Goshen County Republican Party passed a resolution on October 27, 2020 stating:
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Goshen County Republican Party of Wyoming calls on Governor Mark Gordon to immediately rescind the Order 2020-2 Declaration of a State of Emergency and a Public Health Emergency.

The Wyoming State Republican Central Committee passed a resolution on November 14, 2020 stating the same:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Republican Party of Wyoming calls on Governor Mark Gordon to immediately rescind the Order 2020-2 Declaration of a State of Emergency and a Public Health Emergency.

The state of emergency declarations have not been rescinded, which has allowed the Governor to further suspend Wyoming citizens' constitutional rights, for the duration of the declarations. The result – state and local county health officers have issued public health orders in several counties in the state of Wyoming. These orders have taken citizens' rights away to determine their own health decisions and have placed unnecessary burdens on commerce, business and the community. It, also, puts an onerous burden on local law enforcement and county attorneys to enforce and prosecute such a mandate – typically against normal law-abiding citizens and businesses. These orders have created division, placing citizen against citizen; business against customer; customer against business; citizens against elected officials; and elected officials against citizens.

Are we in a state of emergency? What does the math show us? As of today, Saturday November 21, 2020, the Wyoming Department of Health reports Covid19 deaths at 176. Laboratory confirmed cases at 23,347 and probable cases at 3,782 for total cases at 27,129.

This equals a .649% (176/27,129) chance of dying if you contract Covid19. That is a survivability rate of 99.351%, if you contract Covid19. This is an extremely high survivability rate by any standard.

We fully understand and sympathize with those families who have lost loved ones. We are not downplaying the seriousness of Covid19. We have all experienced death in some aspect as we live in a mortal world. But, despite threat to life, we are still granted, by our constitution, our freedom of choice.

Wyoming has had 17 separate orders issued under the Declarations of Emergency since March 13, 2020. That is 253 days under a state of emergency. In the latest order– it states **“a significant number of Wyoming citizens are at risk of serious health complications, including death, from Covid19. Although most individuals who contract Covid19 do not become seriously ill, people with mild symptoms, and even asymptomatic persons with Covid19, place other vulnerable members of the public at significant risk.”** With this continued line of thinking and exaggeration of the facts, we as a state may never exit a “state of emergency”.

When does this end? What is Wyoming's exit strategy? There is no exit strategy. We demand that Governor Gordon rescind the declarations of emergency. We demand that the Goshen County Health Officer immediately withdraw Public Health Order 2020-3.

Submitted by the Goshen County Republican Executive Committee.

Kirk C. Haas
Chairman, GCRP

“Those who would give up essential liberty to purchase a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety.”

Benjamin Franklin