



JOHNSON COUNTY COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES

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“Improving Your Quality of Life”

PUBLIC HEALTH ORDER

WHEREAS, the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is considered an infectious, highly contagious communicable and dangerous disease, declared on March 11, 2020 to be a worldwide pandemic by the World Health Organization; and

WHEREAS, on March 13 the President of the United States, Donald Trump, declared the outbreak of COVID-19 in the United States constitutes a national emergency and Governor of the State of Missouri declared a state emergency within the State of Missouri; and

WHEREAS, as of March 31, 2020, the COVID-19 virus has been confirmed in multiple cases in Johnson County, Missouri, with multiple deaths within the State of Missouri; demonstrating community spread with the number of cases escalating; and

WHEREAS, Johnson County Public Health Officer has issued various orders restricting public gatherings in the county, restricting operation of certain businesses and activities, and requiring residents to stay home, all intended to limit the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on June 30, 2020, Johnson County Community Health Services confirmed 134 cases of the COVID-19 in Johnson County, Missouri, 10 of which have been hospitalized, with 44 new cases within the last ten days, an increase of 32.8%, from the COVID-19 illness; and

WHEREAS, the Center for Disease Control (“CDC”) continues to study the spread and effects of COVID-19 across the United States and has determined that a significant portion of individuals with coronavirus lack symptoms and that even those who eventually develop symptoms can transmit the virus to others before showing symptoms, which means that the virus can spread between people interacting in close proximity (for example, speaking, coughing, or sneezing), even if those people are not exhibiting symptoms; and

WHEREAS, the CDC recommends wearing cloth face coverings in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain, including but not limited to, grocery stores, pharmacies, and other areas of significant community-based transmission; and

WHEREAS, the CDC is advising the use of simple cloth face coverings to slow the spread of the virus and help individuals who may have the virus, and do not know it, from transmitting it to others.

WHEREAS, the Health Department wishes to employ means available under law to protect public health, life, safety and property to limit the development, contraction and spread of COVID-19, pursuant to Chapter 192, RSMo;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED BY THE JOHNSON COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER AND JOHNSON COUNTY COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES BOARD OF TRUSTEES, AS FOLLOWS:

- 1. When in a place of public accommodation or public indoor space (including but not limited to workplace, business, hotel, restaurant, place of worship, gym, childcare facility or public facility such as community center or library) individuals are required to wear a face covering that covers the nose and mouth simultaneously.**
 - a. Face coverings should be positioned carefully over the mouth and nose and should not be touched or readjusted until such time as the face covering is removed. Hand hygiene is encouraged before taking face coverings off and prior to re-masking.
 - b. Face coverings are not required inside a solitary, enclosed workspace such as an office.
 - c. Face coverings may be removed in restaurants and bars when individuals are actively eating or drinking, but must be worn at all times otherwise.
 - d. Face coverings are not required when individuals (including but not limited to pastor of a church, key note speaker, instructor) are speaking to a group, and can absolutely guarantee that they will be able to maintain social distancing of at least 6 feet apart from all others during presentation.
 - e. Businesses may refuse service to any person who refuses to wear a face covering in compliance with this order.
- 2. When in a public outdoor space or when using public transportation, taxis, or ride-sharing services, individuals are required to wear a face covering that covers the nose and mouth simultaneously.**
 - a. Including all outdoor public gathering places such as bus stops, sidewalks, parks, playgrounds, farmer markets, and restaurant/bar patio seating.
 - b. Face coverings are not required when individuals are driving alone or with others they live with; when individuals are exercising alone or with others they live with.
 - c. Face coverings are not required when individuals can absolutely guarantee that they will be able to maintain social distancing of at least 6 feet apart from all others.
- 3. The following individuals are exempt from the requirement to wear a face covering:**
 - a. Those who are deaf or hard of hearing;
 - b. Children younger than five years old; and
 - i. Children who are younger than two years old should never wear face coverings due to the risk of suffocation.
 - ii. Children who are two, three, and four years old, with assistance and close supervision of an adult, are strongly recommended to wear a face

covering at all times in settings where it is likely that a distance of at least six feet cannot be maintained from non-household members and where the vulnerable population may be present (i.e. including, but not limited to grocery stores, pharmacies).

- c. Persons with a medical condition, mental health condition, or disability that prevents wearing a face covering. This includes, but is not limited to, persons with a medical condition for whom wearing a face covering could obstruct breathing or who are unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove a face covering without assistance.

For purposes of this order, a face covering means a covering that covers the nose and mouth. It can be:

- A sewn mask secured with ties or straps around the head or behind the ears;
- Multiple layers of fabric tied around the head;
- Made from a variety of materials, such as fleece, cotton, or linen; or
- Factory-made or made from household items.

A face covering also includes a mask or covering that provides a higher level of protection than a cloth face covering, such as an N95 mask or surgical mask, although it is generally encouraged to use cloth face coverings to preserve access to these higher grade face coverings for healthcare settings and first responders, who are assisting individuals during this virus crisis.

Non-essential and commercial businesses which are not open to the public may re-open provided social distancing is followed and appropriate PPE is available.

Playgrounds, Spraygrounds, swimming pools and similar spaces with shared play equipment are permitted to open, provided that adequate social distancing and face covering provisions are observed as is possible. Further, it is highly recommended those utilizing these types of spaces bring sanitization resources while using said spaces. Failure of the public to adequately social distance and/or wear masks as is possible may result in the issuance of citations and/or the space being closed to the public

Adult and Youth Sporting Tournaments are permitted to take place, provided that adequate social distancing and mask wearing provisions are observed as is possible. Further, it is highly recommended those participating in sporting tournaments bring sanitization resources while engaging in these sporting events. Failure of the public to adequately social distance and/or wear masks as is possible may result in the issuance of citations and/or the cancellation and banning of sporting tournaments. Individuals who are medically unable to wear a face covering, may wear a full face shield covering the mouth, nose, and eyes as an alternative to a face covering.

Enforcement:

In compliance with Sections 192.300 and 192.320 RSMo, the Public Health Officer requests the Johnson County Sheriffs, local Police Chiefs, Park Rangers and other local law enforcement assist in enforcement of this Order. Violation of any provision of this order constitutes an imminent threat, creates an immediate danger to public health, and shall be considered a violation of Section 192.320 RSMo. The penalty for violation of this order is a fine not to exceed \$1000.00 Parents/Guardians are responsible for the behavior of their dependent juveniles under this Order.

No Conflict with State Order

This Order shall not be construed nor operate to conflict with any applicable order issued by the Missouri Governor and/or the Director of the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services.

Effective Date and Time:

This Order becomes effective at 12:00am, Monday, July 6, 2020 and remains in effect for 21 days, expiring at 12:00am on Tuesday, July 28, 2020, unless and until it is extended, rescinded, superseded or amended in writing.

IT IS SO ORDERED THIS 1st DAY OF JULY, 2020.



Mary Thaut, Public Health Officer



Corrine Burgin, Chairperson