

Platte City, Missouri – May 1, 2020

AMENDED PLATTE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT ORDER FOR ONGOING
RESPONSE, REOPENING, AND RECOVERY IN PLATTE COUNTY, MISSOURI
(PHASE 2, STEP 1)

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020, President Donald J. Trump, in coordination with The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), officially recommended cessation of school operations that are near areas of community transmission, even if those areas are in neighboring states; and

WHEREAS, On March 19, 2020, a proclamation of a state of emergency (the “Proclamation”) was declared by Platte County Presiding Commissioner Ron Schieber to allow the Platte County, Missouri, to take measures to reduce the possibility of exposure to COVID-19 and promote the health and safety of Platte County residents, along with an accompanying order; and

WHEREAS, since March 19, 2020, residents of Platte County, Missouri have tested positive for COVID-19 and there remains a lack of evidence of both a proven, effective treatment for COVID-19 as well as a lack of resources for widespread testing for the Platte County population; and

WHEREAS, on March 21, 2020, Missouri Governor Mike Parson, and the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services issued an order under Missouri Statute imposing a restriction upon the number of individuals assembling in the State to further reduce the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 22, 2020, this Platte County Health Department, as part of its ongoing effort to reduce the transmission of Covid-19 in Platte County, issued a limitation on private and public gatherings of 10 or more persons and other extended restrictions on food sales and religious and non-religious activities; and

WHEREAS, on April 3, 2020, Missouri Governor Mike Parson issued a “Stay Home Missouri” order effective April 6, 2020 until April 24, 2020 imposing an order restrict social gatherings and imposing physical distancing and other restrictions upon essential and non-essential business, measures intended to further curb the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on April 9, 2020, Missouri Governor Mike Parson ordered schools to remain closed for the remainder of the academic year following a suspension of in-person school operations; and

WHEREAS, on April 27, 2020, the Platte County Health Department Director met with the Platte County COVID-19 Advisory Group, a panel of Platte County leaders representing the governmental, business, health, education, and religious sectors to

solicit and receive information on the current readiness of the healthcare system and state of community mental, physical, and economic health; and

WHEREAS, on April 28, 2020, the Platte County Health Department Board of Trustees discussed and evaluated an analysis from its Director, including feedback from the Advisory Group, as well as current status of Phase 1 of the work –in-progress Platte County Health Department COVID-19 Response, Recovery and Reopening Plan and the four triggering steps needed to move into Phase 2 of that plan; and

WHEREAS, on April 28, 2020, the Platte County Health Department Board of Trustees accepted that as of April 28, 2020, there is an observed sustained reduction in positive COVID-19 cases in Platte County for at least 14 days; local hospitals report that they are currently able to treat all COVID-19 patients without reverting to crisis standards of care; Platte County has the capacity to test people who are showing symptoms for COVID-19 and the Platte County Health Department can maintain active COVID-19 case and contact isolation and monitoring with its full-time epidemiology specialist and nursing staff; and

WHEREAS, on April 20, 2020 and again on April 27, 2020, the Platte County Commission has reported that it anticipates receipt of disaster relief funds from the State of Missouri Treasurer to assist businesses with reopening, as managed by the Commission; and

WHEREAS, on April 27, 2020, the Director of the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, at the Direction of Governor Mike Parson, issued an order under Mo.Rev.Stat. 192.020 and 19 CSR 20-20.040 directing the increased movement of Missouri citizens within the State under specific physical distancing guidelines and authorized the limited re-opening of retail sales to the public, subject to the number individuals within that location and further directs restaurant and school operations;

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 virus spread continues to directly impact and threaten the citizens of Platte County, the State of Missouri and the United States and is no known treatment or vaccine has been established; and

WHEREAS, it remains that COVID-19 spreads between people who are in close contact with one another through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes; and

WHEREAS, a gathering of individuals without necessary mitigation for the spread of infection continues to pose a risk of the spread of infectious disease; and

WHEREAS, the Health Department wishes to employ all means available under the law to protect public life, health, safety and property to limit the development, contraction and spread of COVID-19 creating this emergency while gradually measuring the spread of COVID-19 under reduced movement and activity restrictions; and

WHEREAS, at its April 28, 2020 meeting, the Board of Trustees for the Platte County Health Department unanimously decided that the status of specific triggering conditions in Platte County health conditions, testing and treatment readiness were present to consider moving into Phase 2 of a COVID-19 recovery; and therefore, the Board of Trustees ordered Director of the Platte County Health Department Mary Jo Vernon to issue a new Order that reflects a Phase 2 status; and

WHEREAS, I, Mary Jo Vernon, Director of the Platte County Health Department do find the aforementioned conditions continue to constitute a threat to the health, safety, and welfare of the residents of Platte County and continues to create a public health emergency situation within the meaning of Mo.Rev.Stat. 192.020; 19 CSR 20-20.010 through 19 CSR 20-20.090; and Platte County, Missouri Ord. Chapters 230 and 240.

NOW, THEREFORE, under the power vested in me under appropriate local, state and federal laws, regulations, ordinances and other enabling provisions, I, Mary Jo Vernon, Director of Public Health for the Platte County Health Department and Health Officer for the County of Platte, under the authority delegated by the State of Missouri and Platte County, Missouri, Ordinances Chapter 230.010 – 240.090 hereby order limited isolation and other restraint on activity, comprised of the following:

1. For purposes of this Order, Physical Distancing Requirements include:
 - (a) maintaining at least six-feet of physical distancing from other individuals;
 - (b) washing hands with soap and water for at least twenty seconds as frequently as possible and supplementing with hand sanitizer;
 - (c) covering coughs or sneezes (into the sleeve or elbow, not hands);
 - (d) not shaking hands;
 - (e) appropriate use of face coverings consistent with guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC); and
 - (f) regular cleaning and sanitizing of high-touch surfaces.

All Platte County visitors and residents shall follow these Physical Distancing Requirements during the term of this Order.

2. Current essential and non-essential businesses, including all retail, can be reopened so long as the number of individuals found at each business location is restricted, as follows:
 - (a) twenty-five (25) percent or less of the entity's authorized fire or building code occupancy limit as set by local authorities, for a retail location with square footage of less than ten thousand square feet (10,000 ft²);
 - (b) Ten (10) percent or less of the entity's authorized fire or building code occupancy limit, as set by local authorities, for a retail location with square footage of ten thousand square feet (10,000 ft²) or more; and
 - (c) When reasonably achievable, all businesses are encouraged to collect names and contact information of persons, including clients, entering a

facility. The purpose of this request is to facilitate successful contact tracing of infectious persons.

3. All food establishments licensed by the Platte County Health Department may continue to offer delivery, drive-through, curbside pickup and take-out services. All food establishments licensed by the Platte County Health Department may offer dine-in services under the following conditions:
 - (a) the food establishments, including caterers, follow Physical Distancing Requirements described in Paragraph 1. of this Order; and
 - (b) the food establishments follow the terms of the April 27, 2020 Order from the Missouri Director of Health and Senior Services, to wit: there must be proper spacing of at least six (6') feet between tables, lack of communal seating areas to parties that are not connected, and having no more than ten (10) people at a single table; and
 - (c) all food establishments create a written safety plan meeting the guidelines established and published by the Platte County Health Department on the same day as this Order and this plan shall be made available to the Platte County Health Department immediately upon request; and
 - (d) all food establishments shall post their written safety plan at or near the front door or front entrance of their location for the purpose of providing notice to the public and their customers of said safety plan, subject to spot inspections by the Platte County Health Department.
4. All essential and non-essential, non-food establishments shall create a safety plan that includes the Physical Distancing Requirements described in Paragraph 1. of this Order. These essential and non-essential businesses are encouraged to post their written safety plan at or near the main entrance of their location to provide notice of said safety plan to the public and to their customers and clients.
5. Public and private primary, secondary, and post-secondary schools shall follow all guidelines of the April 27, 2020 Order from the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services and also shall follow all Physical Distancing Requirements described in Paragraph 1. of this Order.
6. Mass gatherings in indoor environments, whether spontaneous or scheduled, are limited to ten (10) people or ten percent (10%) of the facility's authorized fire or building code occupancy limit as set by local authorities, whichever is greater. In outdoor environments, mass gatherings of up to 50 people are allowed as long as Physical Distancing Requirements described in Paragraph 1. of this Order are met.

Mass gatherings to which these restrictions apply continue to include religious and faith-based activities, services and gatherings; and non-faith based activities and gatherings, including all school graduations, weddings, wakes, funerals, and related receptions and are otherwise not exempted from this Order.

When reasonably achievable, event organizers are encouraged to collect names and contact information of persons, including clients, entering a facility. The purpose of this request is to facilitate successful contact tracing of infectious persons.

The Platte County Health Department will continue to review COVID-19 test results, case tracing and health facility readiness during the term of this Order and when making future determinations as to whether or not these specific restrictions may be modified.

7. For purposes of this Order, all first responders, emergency management personnel, emergency dispatchers, court personnel, and law enforcement personnel, and others working for or to support Essential Businesses are categorically exempt from this Order. Further, nothing in this Order shall prohibit any individual from performing or accessing “Essential Governmental Functions.” Essential Governmental Functions means all services needed to ensure the continuing operation of the government agencies and provide for the health, safety and welfare of the public. All Essential Governmental Functions shall be performed in compliance with Physical Distancing Requirements as defined this Section, to the extent possible.
8. For the purposes of this Order, covered businesses include any for-profit, non-profit, or educational entities, regardless of the nature of the service, the function they perform, or its corporate or entity structure.
9. For the purposes of this Order, “Essential Businesses” means:
 - (a) Healthcare Operations and Essential Infrastructure;
 - (b) Grocery stores, certified farmers’ markets, farm and produce stands, supermarkets, food banks, convenience stores, and other establishments engaged in the retail sale of canned food, dry goods, fresh fruits and vegetables, pet supply, fresh meats, fish, and poultry, and any other household consumer products (such as cleaning and personal care products). This includes stores that sell groceries and also sell other non-grocery products, and products necessary to maintaining the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of residences;
 - (c) Liquor stores due to the fact that withdrawal from alcohol is dangerous and potentially fatal;
 - (d) Food cultivation, including farming, livestock, and fishing;
 - (e) Human and animal food processing facility workers;
 - (f) Businesses that provide food, shelter, and social services, and other necessities of life for economically disadvantaged or otherwise needy individuals;
 - (g) Newspapers, television, radio, and other media services;
 - (h) Gas stations and auto-supply, auto-repair, and related facilities;
 - (i) Banks and related financial institutions;
 - (j) Hardware stores;

- (k) Plumbers, electricians, exterminators, and other service providers who provide services that are necessary to maintaining the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of residences, Essential Activities, and Essential Businesses;
- (l) Businesses providing mailing and shipping services, including post office boxes;
- (m) Educational institutions—including public and private K-12 schools, colleges, and universities—for purposes of facilitating distance learning or performing essential functions related to distance learning, provided that those persons facilitating distance learning are able to maintain physical distancing of six-feet per person; OR for purposes of facilitating in-person activities in compliance with Paragraph 6. pertaining to mass gatherings;
- (n) Places of worship – for purposes of facilitating distance worship or performing essential functions related to distance worship, providing those persons facilitating distance worship are able to maintain physical distancing of six-feet per person; OR for purposes of facilitating in-person worship in compliance with Paragraph 6. pertaining to mass gatherings;
- (o) Laundromats, dry cleaners, and laundry service providers;
- (p) All food establishments and caterers licensed by the Platte County Health Department and other facilities that prepare and serve food, but only for delivery, carry out, drive-thru, or curbside pick-up. Customer self-service of non-prepackaged food and beverages is prohibited. Schools and other entities that typically provide free food services to students or members of the public may continue to do so under this Order on the condition that the food is provided to students or members of the public on a pick-up and takeaway basis only. Schools and other entities that provide food services under this exemption shall not permit the food to be eaten at the site where it is provided, or at any other gathering site;
- (q) Businesses that supply products needed for people to work from home;
- (r) Businesses that supply other essential businesses with the support or supplies necessary to operate;
- (s) Businesses that ship or deliver groceries, food, goods or services directly to residences;
- (t) Airlines, taxis, and other private transportation providers providing transportation services necessary for Essential Activities and other purposes expressly authorized in this Order;
- (u) Home-based care for seniors, adults, or children;
- (v) Residential facilities and shelters for seniors, adults, and children;
- (w) Professional services, such as legal or accounting services, when necessary to assist in compliance with legally mandated activities;
- (x) Childcare facilities providing services that enable employees exempted in this Order to work as permitted. To the extent possible, childcare facilities must operate under the following mandatory conditions:

- i. Childcare must be carried out in stable groups of 10 or fewer (“stable” means that the same 10 or fewer children are in the same group each day);
- ii. Children shall not change from one group to another;
- iii. If more than one group of children is cared for at one facility, each group shall be in a separate room. Groups shall not mix with each other; and
- iv. Childcare providers shall remain solely with one group of children.

10. Violation of any provision of this Order constitutes an imminent threat and creates an immediate menace to public health.

11. This order shall take effect at 12:01 AM on Monday, May 4, 2020 and shall remain in effect until 11:50 PM on Sunday, May 31, 2020 unless otherwise extended, rescinded, superseded, or amended in writing.

It is so ordered this 1st day of May, 2020, at 8:00 PM.

Mary Jo Vernon

Mary Jo Vernon, Director
Platte County Health Department
Platte County, Missouri