

COVID-19 Response, Reopening, and Recovery Plan

Platte County, Missouri

Introduction

In response to the spread of the novel coronavirus COVID-19, both the State of Missouri and the Platte County Health Department issued stay-at-home orders as a public health mitigation strategy to slow the spread of the virus. On April 27, 2020, Mary Jo Vernon, Director of the Platte County Health Department, and the Health Department's Board of Trustees convened the Platte County COVID-19 Advisory Group. The Advisory Group consists of industry professionals from the business community, hospitals and healthcare, emergency management, schools, the faith community, and the health department.

The purpose of the Advisory Group was to make recommendations on how to responsibly lift the stay-at-home orders while continuing to protect the community's health and safety. Input from the Advisory Group was taken into consideration in the development of this Plan.

There are a few key points that will affect our plans as we move forward:

1. There is a lot about COVID-19 that we do not know. We do not know whether ambient temperature has an impact on the coronavirus. We do not know if future outbreaks will be seasonal. We do not know if past infection with SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19 illness, offers some measure of immunity to the disease. We also do not know enough about how it spreads. This plan is based on the best information that is currently available and may change as our knowledge increases.
2. Once the orders are lifted, especially when physical distancing and limits on the size of mass gatherings are relaxed, there will likely be an increase in COVID-19 spread in the County. The timing and manner in which orders are lifted are key determinants of our success.
3. Until a vaccine or other therapeutic interventions become available, some level of physical distancing will be required.
4. Residents returning to work and visitors to Platte County will cause new introductions of the virus in our county.
5. Before the orders are lifted, the public health system needs to have a robust surveillance system in place to enhance our capacity to detect hotspots. This includes additional staffing and training, adequate testing supplies, collection capabilities, laboratory resources, and sentinel sites. Mitigation measures will need to be re-introduced if widespread transmission is detected.
6. Communication plans must be focused and informative to educate the community and to increase confidence in the belief that, if we do this right, it's okay to return to work, play, and worship.

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Universal Precautions for All Phases

These universal precautions are intended to provide guidance throughout all recovery steps. We anticipate modifying and adding to these tasks as we learn more about COVID-19 and the best ways to stop the spread.

1. Continue to encourage residents to wear barrier masks whenever they are out in the community. A barrier mask is one that is not approved for healthcare protection, such as a cloth mask. Barrier masks should be disposed of after use or laundered daily if using cloth. Residents should also continue frequent hand washing, refrain from touching their faces, and continue to maintain a minimum of 6-feet of physical separation from others.
2. Continue to encourage residents to limit physical interactions.
3. Continue to encourage residents not to embark on unnecessary travel and to avoid travel to areas with high transmission of SARS-CoV-2.
4. Continue to restrict visits to long-term care facilities within the county.
5. Continue to encourage high-risk residents, e.g. those with immune disorders and the elderly, to continue to stay at home as much as possible.
6. Businesses of different sizes will be allowed to open only when they can implement Physical Distancing Requirements as defined later in this plan. Businesses must encourage telecommuting, utilize shift control, and continue practices they are already doing to ensure physical distancing.
7. Businesses must execute their reopening plans in phases according to best practice industry guidelines.
8. Businesses should consider resources available to them to provide barrier masks and other PPE (in accordance with their industry guidelines) to employees in determining when to open and their level of operation. The county expects processes to be optimized to ensure that employees and customers are protected.
9. Employers must require employees to monitor their symptoms and stay at home if they are sick.

Phased Approach to Recovery

Opening the economy and rolling back some of the mitigation measures in place is expected to occur in phases with the overarching consideration being to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and protect the health of the public.

We must understand that there will be “hiccups” along the way. There will be an increased risk of exposure to our residents and thus, increased risk of overwhelming hospital capacity in the

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region. We must understand that we may need to again implement the same or even stricter measures if we find evidence of widespread transmission. We must also continue to ensure that adequate personal protective equipment (PPE) and other resources are available to our healthcare providers and workers.

The Platte County Health Department will continually review community data. After initiating each phase and step, the data reviewed will be used by the department to determine when criteria are met to progress to the next step or phase.

Duration of phases

Proceeding to the next phase will depend on meeting the applicable criteria, as defined below, including the impacts on the spread of the virus, impacts on our vulnerable populations, and our hospital capacities. Specifically, these must occur before proceeding to the next phase:

1. Downward trajectory of documented cases within a 14-day period OR
2. Downward trajectory of positive tests as a percent of total tests within a 14-day period (flat or increasing volume of tests)

Given what we currently know about the virus, we will begin monitoring the impacts of roll back in each phase after 14 days.

Parameters and criteria for determining businesses that will be in each phase

The following factors will be used to determine where businesses fall in the four steps of Phase 2. An assessment of the COVID-19 transmission risk posed by business categories will be made qualitatively based on the following:

1. Risk of transmission in an establishment (staff and customers) that is representative of an industry group. The goal is to minimize close contacts for a prolonged period.
2. How modifiable the processes are in the business group to minimize physical interactions.
3. What other risk management and risk reduction strategies can be implemented.

In this plan, the term “business” includes for-profit, not-for-profit, governmental, and non-governmental organizations. Following the White House reopening plan, we should move forward to phased opening when we can satisfy the criteria to do so. Those criteria include:

SYMPTOMS:

- a. Downward trajectory of influenza-like illnesses (ILI) reported within a 14-day period, AND
- b. Downward trajectory of COVID-like syndromic cases reported within a 14-day period,

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AND CASES:

- a. Downward trajectory of documented cases within a 14-day period, OR
- b. Downward trajectory of positive tests as a percent of total tests within a 14-day period (flat or increasing volume of tests),

AND HOSPITALS:

- a. Able to treat all patients without crisis care, AND
- b. Robust testing program in place for at-risk healthcare workers, including (when ready) emerging antibody tests.

Phases

Phase 1 (Phase ends at 11:59 PM on May 3, 2020)

Continue until the numbers confirm that we have truly succeeded in our measures to flatten the curve.

Phase 2, Step 1 (Phase begins on May 4, 2020 and currently ends on May 31, 2020)

This initial category of businesses will be allowed to open when specific criteria are met. This will include businesses and sectors that are considered to present low risk of COVID-19 transmission, do not include large group gatherings, have low risk of prolonged interactions, are adaptable and can put in place steps to reduce transmission. Residents will be encouraged to continue wearing masks and observing physical distancing.

Phase 2, Step 2 (Step may begin as soon as June 1, 2020 and will last a minimum of two weeks)

The next group of businesses will be allowed to open when specific criteria are met. This phase will allow additional types of businesses deemed to present moderate risks to operate. Large gatherings of people will continue to be restricted, masks will continue to be worn, and other physical distancing will continue.

Phase 2, Step 3 (Step will last a minimum of two weeks)

The next group of business will be allowed to open when specific criteria are met. This phase will allow additional types of businesses deemed to present high risks to open with restrictions. Large

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gatherings of people may still be restricted, masks may still be encouraged to be worn, and other physical distancing may still be required to continue.

Phase 2, Step 4

All types of businesses will be allowed to open at full capacity when specific criteria are met. Some restrictions will remain in place and some limitations on the size of indoor mass gatherings may remain.

Phase 3

This phase can occur when there are minimal active cases in the community and will most likely be associated with herd immunity achieved or availability of a vaccine, as well as the broad use of highly effective therapies for persons ill with COVID-19. This is the “return to normal” phase.

Phase 4

This final phase is when the community rebuilds our readiness for the next pandemic. Long-term capacity building and resource building will ensure that we are ready to respond effectively to the next pandemic or public health crisis.

Guidance for Businesses

Business groups that fall into each phase are categorized in the tables beginning on the next page. We expect every establishment to utilize best practices in accordance with their industry guidelines and/or federal and state guidance as they open. Platte County Health Department has developed a Business Guidance Resource Page on its website to assist businesses. However, we strongly encourage individual businesses and establishments to familiarize themselves with their best practice industry guidance so they can operate within the spirit, requirements, and intent of this plan. This is an evolving situation and it is expected that new guidance documents will be developed, updated and released. Businesses are expected to follow the latest version of guidance documents in their respective sectors.

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Phase 1 (Ends at 11:59 PM on May 3, 2020)

All Residents and Businesses	Stay at home unless absolutely necessary; All work from home unless essential; Schools closed; No gatherings over 10; Physical Distancing Requirements are in place*.
Restaurants & Bars Serving Food (1)	Delivery, carry-out, curbside pickup only; No dine-in; No self-service unless pre-packaged.
Schools and Entertainment Venues (2)	Closed
Retail Stores & Businesses (3)	Closed
Nail Salons, Hair Salons, Massage, etc.	Closed
Gyms & Fitness	Closed
Outdoor Playgrounds, Sports Courts	Closed
Sports Venues, Youth Sports, Pools (4)	Closed

(1) Includes breweries

(2) Includes indoor and outdoor venues, convention centers

(3) Any retail store or business (i.e. floral shops, pet grooming, etc.)

(4) Includes indoor and outdoor facilities as well as pools/hot tubs located within those facilities

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*Physical Distancing Requirements include:

- a) maintaining at least six feet of physical distancing from others;
- 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.

Phase 2, Step 1 (Begins at 12:00 AM on May 4, 2020)

If criteria are achieved, then begin this Step.

<p>All Residents and Businesses</p>	<p>Encourage seniors and vulnerable population to stay at home;</p> <p>Encourage work from home if possible;</p> <p>Indoor gatherings limited to 10 people or 10% of occupancy;</p> <p>Outdoor gatherings limited to 50;</p> <p>Physical Distancing Requirements are in place*.</p>
<p>Restaurants & Bars Serving Food (1)</p>	<p>Spacing of at least six (6') feet between tables;</p> <p>No communal seating areas to parties that are not connected;</p> <p>No more than 10 people at a single table;</p> <p>Food establishments must submit a safety plan to reopenplan@plattehealth.com;</p> <p>Must post safety plan on or near main entrance</p>
<p>Schools and Entertainment Venues (2)</p>	<p>Closed</p>

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Retail Stores & Businesses (3)	Retail under 10,000 square feet limited to 25% of occupancy limit; 10,000 square feet or more limited to 10% of occupancy limit; When reasonably achievable, collect names and contact information of those entering building
Nail Salons, Hair Salons, Massage, etc.	Hair and nail salons open for business with restrictions; Massage services will not be opened
Gyms & Fitness	Open for business with restrictions
Outdoor Playgrounds, Sports Courts	Outdoor sports courts that provide non-contact activities will open
Sports Venues, Youth Sports, Pools (4)	Closed

(1) Includes breweries

(2) Includes indoor and outdoor venues, convention centers

(3) Any retail store or business (i.e. floral shops, pet grooming, etc.)

(4) Includes indoor and outdoor facilities as well as pools/hot tubs located within those facilities

***Physical Distancing Requirements include:**

- a) maintaining at least six feet of physical distancing from others;
- 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.

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Phase 2, Step 2

If criteria are achieved, then begin this Step.

All Residents and Businesses	<p>Encourage seniors and vulnerable population to stay at home;</p> <p>Encourage work from home if possible;</p> <p>Indoor gatherings up to 50 people;</p> <p>Outdoor gatherings up to 250 people;</p> <p>Physical Distancing Requirements are in place*.</p>
Restaurants & Bars Serving Food (1)	<p>Dine-in service available;</p> <p>Strict adherence to Physical Distancing Requirements;</p> <p>Encourage curbside service and carry-out.</p>
Schools and Entertainment Venues (2)	Closed
Retail Stores & Businesses (3)	Open for business with restrictions
Nail Salons, Hair Salons, Massage, etc.	Open for business with restrictions
Gyms & Fitness	Open for business with restrictions
Outdoor Playgrounds, Sports Courts	Outdoor sports courts that provide non-contact activities will open
Sports Venues, Youth Sports, Pools (4)	Closed

(1) Includes breweries

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- (2) Includes indoor and outdoor venues, convention centers
- (3) Any retail store or business (i.e. floral shops, pet grooming, etc.)
- (4) Includes indoor and outdoor facilities as well as pools/hot tubs located within those facilities

***Physical Distancing Requirements include:**

- a) maintaining at least six feet of physical distancing from others;
- 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.

Phase 2, Step 3

If criteria are achieved, then begin this Step.

All Residents and Businesses	Encourage seniors and vulnerable population to maintain physical distancing of 6 feet from others; All should continue to wear masks in public. The size of mass gatherings may still be limited.
Restaurants & Bars Serving Food (1)	Dine-in service available at full capacity with restrictions; Encourage curbside service and carry-out
Schools and Entertainment Venues (2)	Open for business with restrictions
Retail Stores & Businesses (3)	Open for business with restrictions
Nail Salons, Hair Salons, Massage, etc.	Open for business with restrictions

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Gyms & Fitness	Open for business with restrictions
Outdoor Playgrounds, Sports Courts	Open for business with restrictions
Sports Venues, Youth Sports, Pools (4)	Open for business with restrictions

(1) Includes breweries

(2) Includes indoor and outdoor venues, convention centers

(3) Any retail store or business (i.e. floral shops, pet grooming, etc.)

(4) Includes indoor and outdoor facilities as well as pools/hot tubs located within those facilities

Phase 2, Step 4

If criteria are achieved, then begin this Step.

All Residents and Businesses	The size of indoor mass gatherings may still be limited until criteria are met to move to Phase 3.
Restaurants & Bars Serving Food (1)	Open at Full Capacity; Some Restrictions
Schools and Entertainment Venues (2)	Open at Full Capacity; Some Restrictions
Retail Stores & Businesses (3)	Open at Full Capacity; Some Restrictions
Nail Salons, Hair Salons, Massage, etc.	Open at Full Capacity; Some Restrictions
Gyms & Fitness	Open at Full Capacity; Some Restrictions

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Outdoor Playgrounds, Sports Courts	Open at Full Capacity; Some Restrictions
Sports Venues, Youth Sports, Pools (4)	Open at Full Capacity; Some Restrictions

(1) Includes breweries

(2) Includes indoor and outdoor venues, convention centers

(3) Any retail store or business (i.e. floral shops, pet grooming, etc.)

(4) Includes indoor and outdoor facilities as well as pools/hot tubs located within those facilities