

Platte City, Missouri – July 14, 2020

TENTH AMENDED PLATTE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT ORDER FOR ONGOING RESPONSE, REOPENING, AND RECOVERY IN PLATTE COUNTY, MISSOURI (PHASE 2, STEP 4)

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 and/or a vaccine proven to protect Platte County residents from this highly dangerous virus; 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, during the last five (5) months the Platte County Health Department Director and Assistant Director met and continue to meet with representatives of the public and private educational institutions, religious organizations, youth sports organizations and other representatives and leaders of the private, public and

government sectors to solicit and receive information on the current readiness of the healthcare system, and the state of community's mental, physical, and economic health; and

WHEREAS, on the Platte County Commission now reports its receipt of disaster relief funds from the State of Missouri Treasurer to assist businesses with reopening, as managed by the Commission; and

WHEREAS, since April 27, 2020, the Director of the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, at the Direction of Governor Mike Parson, issued - orders 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 no known treatment or vaccine has been established; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 virus spread has increased in Platte County, Missouri since the last order issued by the Platte County Health Department, said increase directly correlating with the re-opening of the County; 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 gradually increased movement and activity resumption; and

WHEREAS, on July 8, 2020, the Platte County Health Department Board of Trustees discussed and evaluated an analysis from its Director, staff and department epidemiologic experts, as well as the status of Phase 2, Part 4 of Platte County Health Department COVID-19 Response, and the impact of additional mandatory measures to increase a Response during this phase of re-opening; and

WHEREAS, on July 8, 2020, the Platte County Health Department Board of Trustees accepted that as of July 6, 2020, local hospitals reported that they were able to treat all COVID-19 patients without reverting to crisis standards of care; Platte County had the capacity to test people who were showing symptoms of COVID-19 and the Platte County Health Department was able to maintain active COVID-19 case and contact isolation and monitoring with its full-time epidemiology specialist and nursing staff; and

WHEREAS, at its July 8, 2020 meeting, the Board of Trustees for the Platte County Health Department concluded that the percentage of positive results for COVID-19 tests in Platte County has significantly increased since June 15, 2020 and the highest one-week increase in the number of cases reported since March, 2020 occurred the week of July 2 – July 8, a change is warranted in mandatory safety measures to be employed and followed by all visitors and residents in Platte County, Missouri; and therefore, the Board of Trustees ordered Director of the Platte County Health Department Mary Jo Vernon to issue a new Order that reflected new mandatory actions and behaviors during this Phase 2, Part 4 recovery period, effective on July 16, 2020; and

WHEREAS, as of July 8, 2020, I, Mary Jo Vernon, Director of the Platte County Health Department do find that that the percentage of positive results for COVID-19 tests in Platte County has significantly increased since June 15, 2020 and the highest one-week increase in the number of cases reported since March, 2020 occurred the week of July 2 – July 8, a change is warranted in mandatory safety measures to be employed and followed by all visitors and residents in Platte County, Missouri;

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 Statutes, Code of State Regulations 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 Recommendations 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 Masks or 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 should follow these Physical Distancing Recommendations during the term of this Order.

2. For purposes of this Order, Mask and Face Covering Use Requirements include:

(a) Definition: For the purposes of this order, a Mask or Face Covering means a cloth Face Covering that covers the nose and mouth at the same time. It can be:

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

(b) Requirements:

- i. Wearing a fabric or other material Face Covering or Mask in all indoor and outdoor locations, settings and events where individuals are less than six feet away from each other;
- ii. When in a public indoor space or accommodation including but not limited to, a retail store, special event, workplace, business, place of worship, hotel, motel, gyms, childcare facility, school, or public facility such as a community center or library, individuals are required to wear a Mask or Face Covering that covers the nose and mouth while performing an activity that will necessarily involve close contact or proximity to co-workers or the public where six feet of separation is not feasible.
  - 1) Mask and Face Coverings should be positioned carefully over the mouth and nose and should not be touched or readjusted until such time as the Mask is removed. Hand hygiene is encouraged before taking Masks off and prior to re-Masking.
  - 2) Mask and Face Coverings are not required inside a single-occupant workspace such as a cubicle or office or in a private residence.
  - 3) Mask and Face Coverings may be removed in restaurants and bars when individuals are actively eating or drinking but must be worn at all times otherwise.
  - 4) Mask and Face Coverings are not required when individuals (including but not limited to a religious organization leader, key note speaker, instructor) are speaking to a group, and can absolutely guaranty that they will be able to maintain social distancing of at least six feet apart from all others during the entire presentation.
  - 5) Businesses may refuse service to any person who refuses to wear a Mask or Face Covering in compliance with this order; however, a business may not require an individual to produce written verification of a medical condition or advise that prohibits use of a Mask or Face Covering.
- iii. When in a public outdoor space where six feet of physical separation is not feasible, including all outdoor public gathering places such as bus

stops, parks, playgrounds, farmers markets, sporting events, social gatherings, religious services, graduations, and restaurant/bar seating or when using public transportation, taxis or ride-sharing services, individuals are required to wear a Mask or Face Covering that covers the nose and mouth.

- (c) Exemptions. In compliance with CDC guidance, the following individuals are exempt from using Mask or Face Coverings:
- i. Children under the age of two.
  - ii. Children between the ages of three and nine are strongly encouraged, but not required to wear a Face Covering while under the direct supervision of an adult.
  - iii. Persons who have disabilities that prevent them from comfortably wearing or taking off a Face Covering or prevent them from communicating while wearing a Face Covering.
  - iv. Persons who have a respiratory condition that is exacerbated by the wearing of a Face Covering.
  - v. Persons who have been told by a medical, legal, or behavioral health professional not to wear a Face Covering.
  - vi. Persons who are in a restaurant or tavern and are engaged in consuming food or drink while maintaining six feet of physical distance from other patrons.
  - vii. Persons who are hearing impaired, or communicating with a person who is hearing impaired, where the ability to see the mouth is essential for communication.
  - viii. Persons who are obtaining a service involving the nose or face for which temporary removal of the Face Covering is necessary to perform the service
  - ix. Persons exerting themselves while playing a sport, exercising, or using exercise equipment; and
  - x. Persons engaged in swimming, wading, or activities that may cause the cloth face covering to become wet, thus making it difficult to breathe.
- (d) Surgical Masks or N-95 respirators should be reserved for healthcare workers and first responders.

3. All current retail businesses, excluding food establishments which are addressed separately in Paragraph 5. of this Order, may be open so long as:
- (a) Physical Distancing Recommendations and described in Paragraph 1. of this Order are followed;
  - (b) Mask and Face Covering Use Requirements must be followed;
  - (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.

4. All current non-retail businesses, including but not limited to social and religious organizations and gyms and fitness centers, may be open so long as:
  - (a) Physical Distancing Recommendations described in Paragraph 1. of this Order are followed;
  - (b) Mask and Face Covering Use Requirements must be followed; 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.
5. All food establishments licensed by the Platte County Health Department may continue to offer delivery, drive-through, curbside pickup, take-out services, and may offer dine-in services under the following conditions:
  - (a) the food establishments follow Physical Distancing Recommendations described in Paragraph 1. of this Order;
  - (b) customer self-service may continue with sanitizer or sanitizer wipes for customer use available nearby;
  - (c) all food establishments shall 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;
  - (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; and
  - (e) Applicable Mask and Face Covering Use Requirements are required.
6. Childcare facilities shall follow all pertinent rules and regulations from the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services' Section for Child Care Regulation, Division of Regulation and Licensure and applicable Mask and Face Covering Use Requirements are required of all Staff.
7. All current retail and non-retail businesses, including social and religious organizations are strongly encouraged to create a safety plan that includes the Physical Distancing Recommendations and applicable Mask and Face Covering Use Requirements are required. These organizations 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.
8. Businesses, organizations and food establishments may refuse service to customers without Masks or Face Coverings and customers who refuse to follow any posted safety plan with Physical Distancing or Mask/Face Covering Requirements established by the business or Food Establishment.
9. Public and private primary, secondary, and post-secondary schools shall follow all guidelines from the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, Missouri

Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and Missouri Department of Higher Education & Workforce Development, respectively. Schools are encouraged to follow all Physical Distancing Recommendations described in Paragraph 1. of this Order and may conduct in-person activities in compliance with Paragraph 10. Applicable Mask and Face Covering Use Requirements are required for all Staff and for Middle School and High School Students (Grades 6 through 12), and for all Post-secondary Students and Staff. The use of masks and face coverings is strongly encouraged for students in Grades K through 5, especially when moving between classes or throughout school grounds.

10. Mass gatherings in indoor environments, whether spontaneous or scheduled may take place at one hundred (100%) of the facility's authorized fire or building code occupancy limit as set by local authorities. There are no restrictions on sizes of mass gatherings in outdoor environments, events or mass gatherings; however, attendees are strongly encouraged to follow Physical Distancing Recommendations described in paragraph 1 of this Order. Applicable Mask and Face Covering Use Requirements are required.

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.

11. Team Sports, youth and adult, may practice and compete. Participants strongly encouraged to observe Physical Distancing Recommendations when feasible and to not share any beverage containers. Applicable Mask and Face Covering Use Requirements are required.
12. Outdoor Playgrounds and Sports Courts may be open. Physical Distancing and Recommendations described in paragraph 1 of this Order are strongly recommended. Applicable Mask and Face Covering Use Requirements are required.
13. Swimming Pools may be open. Physical Distancing Recommendations are encouraged. Applicable Mask and Face Covering Use Requirements are required, except while in the water or engaged in activities that may cause the cloth face covering to become wet.
14. For purposes of this Order, all first responders shall comply with Mask and Face Covering Use Requirements to the extent feasible. Further, nothing in this Order shall prohibit any individual from performing or accessing "Essential Governmental Functions." Essential Government 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 Recommendations as defined in Paragraph 1. of this Order and Mask and Face Covering Use Requirements must be followed to the extent possible.

15. 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.
16. 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) Food processing facilities for humans and animals;
  - (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 to include public and private K-12 schools, colleges, and universities;
  - (n) Religious organizations to include any specially designed structure or consecrated space where individuals or a group of people such as a congregation come to perform acts of devotion, veneration, or religious study;
  - (o) Laundromats, dry cleaners, and laundry service providers;
  - (p) Food establishments licensed by the Platte County Health Department and other facilities that prepare and serve food,
  - (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.

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

18. This order shall take effect at 12:01 AM on July 16, 2020 and shall remain in effect until extended, rescinded, superseded, or amended in writing.

It is so ordered this 14<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2020, at 7:13 PM.

***Mary Jo Vernon***

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