



### **Platte County Health Department Public Health Emergency Order 20201117**

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Health and Human Services declared a public health emergency for COVID-19 beginning January 27, 2020; and

WHEREAS, more than 11,299,730 cases of the illness have been reported across the United States and more than 248,000 deaths have been reported as a result of the illness across the United States; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 has resulted in 2,848 reported positive cases of COVID-19 in Platte County, Missouri and the deaths of 49 Platte County residents; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is a respiratory disease that spreads easily from person to person and may result in serious illness or death; and

WHEREAS, the spread of COVID-19 endangers the health, safety, and welfare of persons and property within Platte County, Missouri; and

WHEREAS, to reduce the spread of COVID-19, measures that are recommended and considered effective by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC") include among other measures, avoiding close contact with other people and covering one's mouth and nose with a cloth face cover when in public settings; and

WHEREAS, the increased spread of COVID-19 also presents a serious threat to the continued effective operation of the local economy within Platte County; and

WHEREAS, wearing a mask or other whole face covering in public venues reduces transmission of the virus, helps keep our businesses open and our economy running, and gets and keeps children in school; and

WHEREAS, in general, large public gatherings lead to heightened risks of large-scale COVID-19 person-to-person transmission; and

WHEREAS, both the number of positive cases and the percentage of individuals tested with positive test results within Platte County have increased greatly and significantly in the past weeks; and

WHEREAS The Regional Public Health Directors were advised by KC Metro Hospital Chief Medical Officers that the uncontrolled rise in COVID-19 infections has created a dangerously low number of available physical acute care beds in local hospital facilities and significant staffing shortages for health personnel;

WHEREAS, for the aforementioned and other reasons, and in recognition and furtherance of the County Health Department's responsibility to provide for and ensure the health, safety, security, and welfare of the people of Platte County, requiring that masks or other face coverings be worn in public, limiting the size of public gatherings, ensuring physical distancing, and placing certain other limitations on activities are all measures that can be taken to slow and reduce the spread of COVID-19; 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 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:

#### Section One: Community Health Guidance

- A. People at high risk of severe illness from COVID-19, as recommended by the Director of Public Health, are urged to stay in their residence or place of rest except as necessary to seek medical care and to obtain provision of essential life items. All individuals shall comply with Physical Distancing Requirements at all times.
  1. For purposes of this Order, Physical Distancing Requirements include:
    - (a) Maintaining at least six-feet of physical distancing from other individuals; and
    - (b) Appropriate use of Masks or Face Coverings consistent with guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).
- B. To limit exposure to COVID-19, face coverings or masks must be worn and persons are encouraged to maintain Physical Distancing Requirements, and avoid large groups or other crowd-based activities.
  1. For 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:
    - (a) A sewn Face Covering or Mask secured with ties or straps around the head or behind the ears;
    - (b) Multiple layers of fabric tied around the head;
    - (c) Made from a variety of materials, such as fleece, cotton, or linen; or
    - (d) Factory made or made from household items
  2. For purposes of this Order, Mask and Face Covering Use Requirements include:

- (a) Wearing a fabric or other material Face Covering or Mask when in all indoor and outdoor locations, settings and events where individuals are less than six feet away from each other;
  - (b) Wearing a fabric or other material Face Covering or Mask when in a public or private 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.
  - (c) Wearing a fabric or other material Face Covering or Mask when in any 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.
3. For purposes of this Order, Mask and Face Coverings:
- (a) shall 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.
  - (b) Are not required inside a single-occupant workspace such as a cubicle or office or in a private residence.
  - (c) may be removed in restaurants and bars when individuals are actively eating or drinking but must be worn at all times otherwise.
  - (d) 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.
  - (e) May be required by businesses, who 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.
4. Exemptions. In compliance with CDC guidance, the following individuals are exempt from using Mask or Face Coverings:
- (a) Children under the age of five.
  - (b) 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.
  - (c) Persons who have a respiratory condition that is exacerbated by the wearing of a Face Covering.
  - (d) Persons who have been told by a medical, legal, or behavioral health professional not to wear a Face Covering.

- (e) 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.
  - (f) 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.
  - (g) 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; and
  - (h) Persons engaged in swimming, wading, or activities that may cause the cloth face covering to become wet, thus making it difficult to breathe.
5. Surgical Masks or N-95 respirators should be reserved for healthcare workers and first responders.

## Section Two. Business Operations and Gatherings.

### A. Business operations may continue to operate with the following modifications:

1. Restaurants, taverns, and all other venues, including public and private or membership-only event spaces, serving food and drink indoors shall limit the number of occupants to no more than 50 percent of building occupancy, and shall close at 10:00 p.m. Indoor and outdoor patrons must be seated, and masked at all times except when actively eating or drinking. Indoor and outdoor parties are limited to ten (10) or fewer persons and parties shall be spaced with no less than six feet of distance between themselves and individuals from any other parties.
2. Masks must be worn at all indoor spaces with more than one person per room or barrier-divided space and outdoor spaces where social distancing of at least six feet cannot be maintained, except where further exceptions, if any, are approved by the Director of Public Health.
3. Gyms, fitness, and recreational centers shall be limited to no more than 50 percent capacity and be subject to all indoor and outdoor rules within this Order, including the requirement that all patrons wear masks indoors at all times and maintain social distancing of not less than six feet.
4. Business operations generally open to the public and operating in a publicly accessible capacity where six feet of social distancing cannot be maintained during the provision of service and not described elsewhere in this order shall maintain six feet of distance between areas of service, such as tables, booths, or stations in addition to the wearing of a face covering or mask.
5. All businesses are encouraged to allow their employees to work remotely to the fullest extent possible.

### B. Gatherings.

1. Unless otherwise provided by this Order, all indoor gatherings are limited to a maximum of ten (10) people. Gatherings are groups of individuals, who are not members of the same household, congregated together for a common or coordinated social, community, or leisure purpose. This prohibition includes planned and spontaneous gatherings as well as public and private, including membership-

required, gatherings. Gatherings are permitted with ten (10) or fewer persons in one place, subject to Physical Distancing Requirements. Prohibited gatherings do not include non-event-based regular commercial, nonprofit, or educational activity by workers, students, or customers of businesses.

2. Gatherings of more than ten (10) persons may take place only with the approval of the Director of Public Health after submission, review, and approval of a plan to mitigate the potential spread of infectious disease. The infectious disease preapproval requirement covers all gatherings of 10 or more persons, including, but not limited to, celebrations, concerts, sporting events with spectators, receptions, private parties, lectures, or life milestone events. Venues may submit a plan for pre-approval of all gatherings if plans will be applied consistently despite a change in individual patrons present.

#### C. Exemptions

1. Any individuals performing essential government functions are categorically exempt from this Order. 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 any government agencies and provide for the health, safety and welfare of the public. All Essential Governmental Functions should be performed in compliance with Physical Distancing Requirements as defined in this section to the extent possible.

This Order is set to begin at 12:00A.M. on November 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020 and continues until further notice.

It is so ordered this 17<sup>th</sup>, day of November 2020.

Mary Jo Vernon, Director

Platte County Health Department