



CLAY COUNTY

PUBLIC HEALTH CENTER



800 Haines Drive
Liberty, MO 64068
p. 816-595-4200
clayhealth.com

Media Contact

Kelsey Neth
Communications Specialist
o. 816-595-4257
c. 816-200-3107
kneth@clayhealth.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Clay County Stay-at-Home Order Amended to Expire May 3

LIBERTY, Mo. – April 22, 2020 – According to an amendment to [Clay County Public Health Emergency Order 03222020](#), the order will now expire on Sunday, May 3 at 11:59 p.m. The decision was made to revise the expiration date of the Stay-at-Home order based on several key factors.

First, an additional week's worth of data shows Clay County's rate of new cases is consistently low and has continued to remain flat over the last several weeks. Also, Clay County jurisdictional data (number of cases and deaths, hospital capacities, etc.) along with the latest modeling trends for the peak of COVID-19 in the State of Missouri give confidence that it will be safer for Clay County to begin the gradual process of reopening earlier than originally projected. The final significant factor is that access to COVID-19 testing in Clay County has greatly improved in the last week.

"Previously testing was very limited with only hospitals, physician's clinics and some urgent care clinics having the ability to test for COVID-19 in our jurisdiction," said Director of Public Health Gary E. Zaborac. "However, today our health center opened its free, drive-through [testing clinic](#) and it is fully operational and running smoothly. We are also expecting other testing clinic opportunities to become available in our area in the coming days which will expand our abilities further. This remains a critical piece in our effort to safely reopen our communities".

A plan for phasing out of the current order and into the FIRST PHASE of community recovery and reopening is being developed by local leadership while attempting to be in line with guidance from Governor Parson's "Show Me Strong" Recovery Plan for the State of Missouri. It is planned for release by the middle of next week. These plans will include detailed guidance for safely and gradually allowing businesses to reopen, events to resume and assist individuals in the reopening of our communities. Please stay tuned to the health center's website and social media channels for updates and additional information.

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The mission of the Clay County Public Health Center is to deliver the essential public health services of prevention, promotion and protection to the communities of Clay County.