



CLAY COUNTY
PUBLIC HEALTH CENTER



CCPHC Public Health Emergency Order

County of Clay Public Health Emergency Order Amended 11172020

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Health and Human Services declared a public health emergency for COVID-19 beginning January 27, 2020, with now more than 11,279,000 cases of the illness and more than 250,000 deaths as a result of the illness across the United States; 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, COVID-19 has resulted in 8,049 reported positive cases of COVID-19 in Clay County, Missouri and the deaths of 120 Clay County residents; and

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

WHEREAS, for the aforementioned and other reasons, and in recognition and furtherance of the County's responsibility to provide for and ensure the health, safety, security, and welfare of the people of Clay 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

WHEREAS, the **Clay Public Health Emergency Order Amended 08212020** was enacted on August 24th, 2020; and

NOW, THEREFORE, under the power vested in me under appropriate local, state and federal regulations and other enabling provisions, I, Gary E. Zaborac, Director of Public Health for the Clay County Public Health Center and Health Officer for the County of Clay do hereby order the following:

- That all parts of **Public Health Emergency Order Amended 08212020** dated August 21st, 2020, Phase 2, Step 2 shall remain in place including that all employees or visitors to any indoor public accommodation must wear face coverings in an area or while performing an activity which will necessarily involve close contact or proximity to co-workers or the public where six feet of separation is not feasible or cannot be maintained.
- The following also apply:

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 should comply with Physical Distancing Requirements at all times, including wearing face coverings or masks when others may be present closer than six feet away.

B. All persons are encouraged to limit exposure, to the extent possible, by properly wearing face coverings or masks, maintaining Social Distancing Requirements, and avoiding large groups or other crowd-based activities.

C. For the purposes of this Order: “Physical Distancing Requirements” includes maintaining at least six foot social distancing from other individuals and wearing a face covering or masks that is affixed in place without the use of one’s hands and that securely covers the nose and mouth.

Section Two. Business Operations and Gatherings.

A. Business operations may continue as under the previous emergency order 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. Exceptions to the mask requirement pursuant to this Order include only:

i. Minors below the age of 5; and

ii. Persons who have disabilities for which masks constitute a substantial impairment to their health and well-being based upon medical, behavioral, or legal direction; and

iii. Persons who are in a restaurant or tavern and are engaged in consuming food or drink while adequately distanced from other patrons.

iv. Persons who are obtaining a service involving the nose or face for which temporary removal of the face covering or mask is necessary to perform the service.

3. Gyms, fitness, and recreational centers, including city, school, and other publicly-owned and managed facilities, 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 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 health department 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

Exemptions: 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 Governmental 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 12:00A.M., November 23rd, 2020 and continues until further notice.

It is so ordered this 17th, day of November 2020.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amy Johnson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Amy" and last name "Johnson" clearly distinguishable.

Director of Public Health

Clay County Public Health Center