



CLAY COUNTY
PUBLIC HEALTH CENTER



CCPHC Public Health Emergency Order

County of Clay Public Health Emergency Order Amended 02212021

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 28,325,091 cases of the illness and more than 502,493 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 19,819 reported positive cases of COVID-19 in Clay County, Missouri and the deaths of 267 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, 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, in late December 2020, COVID-19 vaccine distribution began in the Kansas City Metro area and as of February 14, 2021, close to 11 percent of the state population has been vaccinated; and

WHEREAS, the number of COVID cases and hospitalizations in the Kansas City Metro area including Clay County has dropped steadily and the weekly average for new COVID-19 cases continues to decrease; and

WHEREAS, Public Health Order 01132021 included the following provision:

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 12:00 a.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.

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:

Amended Public Health Order 01132021 dated January 13, 2021, is hereby repealed and the following Amended Public Health Order 02212021 is enacted in lieu thereof, to read as follows:

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 Physical Distancing Requirements, as defined infra, and avoiding large groups or other crowd-based activities.
- C. For the purposes of this Order: "Physical Distancing Requirements" includes wearing a face covering or mask that is affixed in place without the use of one's hands and covers the nose and mouth and maintaining at least six foot Physical Distancing from other individuals.

Section Two: Business Operations and Gatherings

A. Business Operations. 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 follow Physical Distancing

Requirements between separate parties, in accordance with Section One (1) of this Order. Patrons in both indoor and outdoor spaces where food and/or drink are served must be seated and may only remove their face covering or mask while eating and drinking.

2. Masks must be worn at all indoor spaces with more than one person per room or barrier-divided space and outdoor spaces where Physical 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; and
 - 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.
 - v. Contact Tracing: If a business operation is notified that a patron, occupant, or employee has tested positive for COVID-19, the business operation must immediately notify the Director of Public Health
3. Gyms, fitness, and recreational centers, including City, school, and other publicly owned and managed facilities, shall follow Physical Distancing Requirements between separate parties, in accordance with Section One (1) of this Order, including any and all mask requirements and to maintain Physical 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 Physical 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. 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 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 mask and Physical Distancing Requirements as defined in this section to the extent possible.”

This order is set to begin 05:00P.M., February 21st, 2021 and continues until further notice.

It is so ordered this 21st, day of February 2021.

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

Director of Public Health

Clay County Public Health Center