

PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY ORDER

WHEREAS, the existence and spread of the COVID-19 virus has resulted in the declaration of a worldwide pandemic, and it is appropriate and necessary to take quick action to reduce the possibility of exposure to COVID-19 and to reduce the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, countless governmental entities and private businesses have implemented numerous immediate actions and modifications to their normal course of business; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 virus spreads between people who are in close contact with one another through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes; and

WHEREAS, on or about March 21, 2020, six presumptive positive cases of COVID-19 have been detected in Cass County; and

WHEREAS, on March 21, 2020, Governor Mike Parson directed the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services Director to require social distancing statewide; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Cass County Code Chapter 210, the Cass County Health Department Director is authorized to take certain actions to enhance public health and prevent and mitigate the entrance of communicable diseases into the County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED BY THE CASS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR, AS FOLLOWS:

1. That the COVID-19 pandemic is hereby declared to be a public health emergency for Cass County.
2. Every person in Cass County shall avoid social gatherings of more than ten (10) people. For purposes of this Order, "social gatherings" shall mean any planned or spontaneous event or convening that would bring together more than ten (10) people in a single space at the same time.
3. That all restaurants, dining facilities, bars, taverns, clubs, and movie theaters in the County are hereby ordered closed to the public, except that any such establishment may continue to provide curbside, drive-through and delivery food and beverage services. In all areas, establishments must follow the guidance provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for social distancing and infection control measures.
4. People shall not visit nursing homes, long-term care facilities, retirement homes, or assisted living homes unless to provide critical assistance.
5. Schools shall remain closed. This Order does not prohibit schools from providing child care and Food and Nutritional Services for those children that qualify. Teachers and staff may enter the building as long as they follow the directives set forth in this Order.
6. That this Order shall be in effect from 12:01 a.m. on March 22, 2020 until 12:01 a.m. on April 6, 2020. This Order may be extended, supplemented or modified as required for the effective and efficient management and control of the COVID-19 pandemic in Cass County by further order or direction of the Cass County Commission or the Cass County Health Department Director.

7. The Public Health Emergency Order dated March 17, 2020 is withdrawn and replaced by this order.

IT IS SO ORDERED THIS 21st DAY OF MARCH, 2020.



Andrew Warlen, MPH
Cass County Health Department Director