



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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COVID-19 Guidance and Recommendations

CASS COUNTY, MO (November 23, 2020) – On November 19, 2020, Governor Mike Parson extended a state of emergency for Missouri in response to the COVID-19 pandemic until March 31, 2021. Additionally, the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) also issued a Public Health Warning which can be found at:

<https://health.mo.gov/living/healthcondiseases/communicable/novel-coronavirus/pdf/advisory-20201119.pdf>.

The Cass County data to determine risk category explained in the warning can be found at:

<https://showmestrong.mo.gov/public-health-county/>.

As of Friday, November 20th, the metrics for Cass County were:

Positivity Rate: 18.3%

7-Day Case Rate: 390.4 per 100,000

Based on the DHSS Warning, that puts Cass County at **Category 1: Extreme Risk**.

The Cass County Commission STRONGLY recommends that individuals do the following:

1. **Wear a mask at all times in public and other settings outside your home where social distancing is not possible.**
2. **Maintain social distance of at least 6 feet wherever possible, and limit close contacts with other individuals to less than 15 minutes.**
3. **Wash hands multiple times a day.**
4. **Stay home when sick or if you have symptoms. Self-isolate from other family members.**
5. **Avoid large gatherings and as much as possible, limit your regular interactions to a small group (<10) of family members, friends, and/or co-workers**
6. **Minimize travel outside of Missouri.** If traveling outside the state, please follow all guidance and requirements for your destination. Upon return, take as many precautions as possible, wear a mask, and monitor symptoms.

7. **If planning travel for gatherings during the holidays, especially those including individuals at high risk, encourage all people to self-isolate or isolate as family units as much as practicable in advance of any such gathering.**
8. **Do not attend any gatherings, family or otherwise, if you have any symptoms.**

Additionally, the Commission **STRONGLY** recommends that businesses do the following:

1. **Modify physical workspaces to maximize and maintain social distancing.**
2. **Develop an infectious disease preparedness and response plan, including policies and procedures for workforce contact tracing when an employee tests positive for COVID-19.**
3. **Monitor workforce for indicative symptoms. Symptomatic people should not physically return to work until cleared by a medical provider.**
4. **Develop, implement, and communicate about workplace flexibilities and protections, including:**
 - **Encouraging telework whenever possible and feasible with business operations**
 - **Working in phases and/or split shifts, if possible**
 - **Limiting access to common areas where personnel are likely to congregate and interact**
 - **Ensuring that sick leave policies are flexible and consistent with public health guidance.**

The Commission believes that each individual is responsible for doing the right thing. We are in this together and to protect our families, our neighbors, our businesses, and our communities, everyone must follow these basic principles. Together, we can get through this. #CassCountyStrong

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