

**Order of the City of Columbia  
Director of Public Health and Human Services**

**2019 Novel Coronavirus ("COVID-19")  
Notice and Issuance of Rules and Regulations**

**Order No. 2020-17**

**Renewal of Modified Reopening Plan – Phase 2, Step 3**

**Facts**

1. The United States Center for Disease Control and Prevention has reported the outbreak of a novel (new) coronavirus that was first detected in China and has been spreading rapidly worldwide since approximately December 2019.

2. The virus has been named "SARS-CoV-2" and the disease it causes has been named "coronavirus disease 2019" ("COVID-19").

3. COVID-19 is considered an infectious, highly contagious communicable and dangerous disease and on March 11, 2020 was declared by the World Health Organization to be a pandemic.

4. On March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared the COVID-19 outbreak a national emergency and the Governor of Missouri declared a state of emergency in Missouri.

5. As of June 16, 2020, in the United States the SARS-CoV-2 virus has been responsible for over 2.1 million cases of COVID-19 resulting in over 116,000 deaths.

6. The United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC") has warned against large gatherings of people:

"Large events and mass gatherings can contribute to the spread of COVID-19 in the United States via travelers who attend these events and introduce the virus to new communities. Examples of large events and mass gatherings include conferences, festivals, parades, concerts, sporting events, weddings, and other types of assemblies."

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/large-events/mass-gatherings-ready-for-covid-19.html>.

7. In addition, the CDC has urged restriction on the size of any gathering consistent with local conditions.

8. The CDC has raised particular concern about the health and susceptibility of high-risk individuals. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/community-mitigation-strategy.pdf>.

9. COVID-19 has been detected in the State of Missouri and the City of Columbia, with local conditions expected to include an increase of infections consistent with national trends unless significant containment efforts successfully limit the local spread of the virus.

10. Case investigation and contact tracing conducted by the local health department is an integral part of a multipronged approach to contain the spread of the virus.

11. Ensuring adequate healthcare resources exist within the community to promptly identify, isolate and care for individuals exposed to COVID-19 and respond to any anticipated surge in required healthcare services due to COVID-19 while maintaining adequate care for other patients is critical to the health, safety and well-being of the public.

12. The Health Director, as the Local Health Authority, has issued prior Orders that have resulted in a decline of the number of COVID-19 cases in the City of Columbia and on May 4, 2020 began a slow reopening of the local economy with Order 2020-05, which generally provided for 25% occupancy for businesses while continuing to limit intentional gatherings to 10 persons and requiring social distancing between employees at all establishments.

13. On May 26, 2020 Phase 2 Step 2 of the reopening plan was implemented through Order 2020-06 which generally authorized 50 % occupancy of businesses and increased the size of intentional gatherings to 50 persons.

14. On June 23, 2020 Phase 2 Step 3 of the reopening plan went into effect under Order 2020-07 generally authorizing most businesses to reopen with implementation of social distancing requirements and limiting large gatherings to 100 persons with certain exceptions allowed if the business could provide an operational plan to ensure public safety.

15. The number of identified active COVID-19 cases in Boone County increased from 21 active cases on May 26, 2020 to 231 active cases on July 8, 2020 causing the Director to extend Phase 2 Step 3 of the reopening plan pursuant to Order 2020-08.

16. Based on continued increase of new case rates and a seven (7) day rolling new case rate for the period of July 29, 2020 through August 4, 2020 at 106 cases per 100,000, the Director modified Phase 2 Step 3 of the reopening plan in Order 2020-09 with to include the requirement to wear a face mask under certain conditions.

17. The University of Missouri student population began its on campus move-in on August 17, 2020 with in-person classwork resuming on August 24, 2020. Stephens College began in-person classes on August 25, 2020, with residential students returning to campus for move-in and orientation between August 16-24, 2020. Columbia College will begin its move-in and orientation on August 28-30, 2020 with in-person classes beginning on August 31, 2020. The number of students resuming higher education coursework in the City exceeds 30,000.

18. Since August 17, 2020 Boone County has experienced a steady increase in COVID-19 daily cases with the new daily cases reported on August 27, 2020 as of 4:00 pm being 83 with the total number of active cases being 502. The average number of active cases in the 18- 22 age bracket increased over 220% in the seven days ending on August 27, 2020 compared to the previous seven (7) day period. The number of hospitalizations within Boone County increased from 27 on August 17, 2020 to 43 on August 27, 2020.

19. Since implementation of Order 2020-11, the number of new daily cases has increased, with the five day rolling average increasing from 61 on September 18, 2020 to 132 on November 11, 2020. Since September 25, 2020 there has been an upward trend in hospitalizations with 60 Boone County individuals hospitalized during the month of October. During the month of November 2020, 119 Boone County citizens with COVID-19 were hospitalized. As of December 15, 2020, there were 138 patients with COVID-19 hospitalized in Boone County with 49 of those individuals being Boone County residents. The number of patients in the Intensive Care Units on December 15, 2020 was 35 with 14 patients on ventilators. Boone County hospitals are currently reporting "yellow" status indicating they are delaying non-emergency patient transfers from referring hospitals due to capacity or staffing for greater than two consecutive days, or are delaying non-urgent procedures and operations to provide additional inpatient capacity.

20. As of December 15, 2020 there were 4,807 cases of the 12,130 total number of COVID-19 cases in Boone County attributable to persons age 18 to age 27 indicating a need to continue to specifically address the interaction of young adults in locations where the spread of the disease through community contact has a greater probability.

21. As of December 15, 2020 the Columbia Public School District reported a 14-day rate per 10,000 people of 95.1. The Columbia Public School District transitioned to all virtual instruction for students on November 16, 2020 with students to remain in virtual learning mode until mid-January 2021.

22. On December 14, 2020 health care workers in Missouri began receiving the first dosage of the coronavirus vaccine pursuant to a distribution plan established by the State of Missouri in anticipation of a limited supply initially. Phase 1A of the distribution plan calls for the vaccination to be administered to Long Term Care Facility Residents and Staff along with patient-facing Healthcare Workers. With current demand for the vaccine exceeding available supply, it will be necessary to continue to monitor the effectiveness of the health order in combination with the administration of the vaccine until the vaccine is available to all Boone County residents.

23. At this time the Director finds that due to the continued high volume of new daily cases and burden on the operating capacity of Boone County hospitals it is necessary to continue the current order without modification for an additional four weeks to ensure the capacity of local resources remain adequate to meet the anticipated need while the vaccine production and administration plans are implemented both locally and nationally.

## Legal Basis of Rules and Regulations

24. The Columbia/Boone County Public Health and Human Services (PHHS) Director is the "local health authority" as contemplated in 19 CSR 20-20.010 of the Code of State Regulations.

25. Among other authority that may be available under Missouri and United States law, Sec. 11-98 of the City of Columbia Code of Ordinances ("Code") states:


Whenever the director shall declare that any malignant, infectious or contagious disease is or may become epidemic in the city, or any part thereof, he shall immediately, or as soon thereafter as possible, give notice to that effect to the citizens of the city and the country surrounding the same, and shall also give notice of the rules and regulations adopted by him for the enforcement of quarantine within the city or portion thereof. He shall take such steps and adopt such measures as he may deem necessary to prevent the introduction and spreading of such disease, and to this end he shall have power to quarantine the city against persons coming into or leaving the city during the continuation of such epidemic. Whenever he shall deem it necessary, he shall have the power to forbid and prevent the assembling of congregations of persons within the city and to order and enforce the closing of places of business and amusements.

26. Also, pursuant to 19 CSR 20-20.050, the local health authority is empowered to order quarantines, isolations, and closings of schools and places of public and private assembly in order to protect the public health.

27. The terms of this Order shall apply to all areas within the corporate limits of the City of Columbia, except as otherwise provided herein.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, based on the foregoing facts and the authority that exists under federal, state and local law, I declare that SARS-CoV-2 and COVID-19 are contagious diseases that are epidemic in the City and hereby extend the regulations previously entered as Order 2020-11. The rules and regulations set forth in Order 2020-11 shall remain in full force and effect as if fully set forth herein and will **expire on January 19, 2021** at 11:59 p.m. unless extended, rescinded or modified prior to such expiration.

**So Ordered.**

  
**Stephanie Browning**  
Director, Columbia/Boone County Department of  
Public Health and Human Services

Date: 12.17.2020