Jackson County COVID-19 Executive Order Guidance

This is a continually evolving situation. As of 3/27/20 the following applies:

Order:

Effective 12:01 am Tuesday, March 24 Jackson County, Missouri, is requiring people to stay-at-home except for essential needs. The intent of this order is to ensure the maximum number of people self-isolate in their places of residence to the maximum extent feasible.

Vulnerable populations including the elderly and those with underlying health conditions must stay-at-home. All community members should stay-at-home except to perform essential duties for business continuity or government functions, to get food, care for a relative or friend, get necessary health care or perform activities related to maintaining a healthy lifestyle during this time.

It is OK to go outside for walks if you are not in a group and practice proper social distancing.

This order is in effect until at least April 24. - **It may be extended depending on recommendations from public health officials.**

-------- After April 24 Executive Order still limits gathering to fewer than 10. --------

Is this mandatory or is it just guidance?

It is mandatory. You are required to comply, and it is a misdemeanor crime not to follow the order (although the intent is not for anyone to get into trouble).

It is critical for everyone to follow the Order to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and protect themselves, their loved ones, friends, neighbors and the whole community.

All persons, businesses, and other entities are required to comply if they do not fall within the exemptions that are specified in the Order.

Why are we doing this?

This is a critical intervention to reduce harm from the spread of the coronavirus in our community. This is a mandatory order enforceable by a fine or jail.

The health officers of four regional jurisdictions are responding to quickly mounting cases and serious illnesses across the region.
Now is the time to do everything we can to prevent the situation from getting much worse in a matter of days or weeks. Every hour counts. We need and appreciate the cooperation of everyone who lives and works in Jackson County to act immediately.

While this news may feel alarming, it is a necessary step to prevent a worsening situation. The patterns of the virus around the world, and in our own state, tell us that moving right now to maximize social distancing and restrict people gathering is the best way to fight the virus and save lives.

If everyone works together, we should be able to adjust to the new rules over the next few weeks.

We know that there will be a lot of questions and concerns at the beginning of this new regimen.

This is a major change being taken to protect public health. Please be patient and kind to one another. Together, we will get through this, and our community’s health will be protected.

If your essential business is in operation, please continue to follow the guidelines for protecting vulnerable populations, such as hand hygiene and social distancing.

- **Precautions for older adults and those with underlying health conditions:**
  Older adults and individuals with underlying medical conditions that are at increased risk of serious COVID-19 are encouraged not to attend (including employees)

- **Social distancing to prevent prolonged close contact:**
  Social distancing recommendations must be met (i.e., limit contact of people within 6 feet from each other for 10 minutes or longer);

- **Health screening for event employees:**
  Employees must be screened for coronavirus symptoms each day and excluded if symptomatic.

- **Enable strict adherence to hygiene and sanitation protocols at all businesses:**
  Proper hand hygiene and sanitation must be readily available to all employees.

- **Clean and disinfect setting for the business:**
  Environmental cleaning guidelines from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) are followed (e.g., clean and disinfect high touch surfaces daily or more frequently)
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Sector Guidance

The following section provides answers to frequently asked questions from many business and community sectors. We this provides some insight to questions you may have. Questions and concerns are continually coming in, and we are working to keep this resource updated.

The intent of this order is to ensure that the maximum number of people self-isolate in their places of residence to the maximum extent feasible, while enabling essential services to continue, to slow the spread of COVID-19 to the maximum extent possible.

Only staff that are required for Essential Business Operations are allowed to be at work.

You can find the list of Essential Businesses and Operations defined by Jackson County on their website.

Guidance for Restaurants, bars, taverns, movie theaters

Per executive order from County Executive Frank White Jr.

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------- After April 24 Executive Order still limits gathering to fewer than 10. -------

This decision was not made lightly and we understand the strain this is putting on your business, but we are in the midst of a public health emergency. We have taken these steps in order to reduce the transmission of COVID-19 in our communities and now is the time to be vigilant.

- Ensure all employees are following strict sanitation guidelines including, handwashing, surface sanitation and regularly sanitizing all frequently touched surfaces such as doorknobs and registers.

- All employees should be screened using CDC guidelines identify the key symptoms to watch for such as fever, cough and shortness of breath. Employers should immediately require anyone who has the symptoms to leave.
Q. Are restaurants open for business?
A. Restaurants must close all dine-in areas. Restaurants can still allow carry-out, drive-through or delivery options, but no customers can eat in dining restaurants until April 24.

Q. Can my dine-in restaurant open if the number of customers is fewer than 10?
A. No, all dine-in restaurants must close until April 24. If your restaurant can adapt to make all orders to-go through carry-out, drive-through or delivery, it can remain open.

Q. Can customers order inside a restaurant for carry-out (such as at sub and sandwich shops)?
A. Yes, although we would encourage all customers to call prior or order their meals online. If at all possible, offer curbside pickup for all meals and restrict customers from entering your establishment. If you are allowing carry-out, limit the number of people to fewer than 10 people including staff in your restaurant and provide social distancing of at least 6 feet.

Q. Can a bar stay open?
A. No.

Q. Are coffee shops open?
A. Coffee shops are open for drive-through, carry-out and delivery (check individual locations for details). All food must be prepackaged or to-go and dine-in or lounge areas must be closed.

Q. Can I allow customers to use my restaurant’s restroom?
A. Yes, only for those restaurants or coffee shops that are open for carry-out services. If at all possible, offer curbside pickup for all meals and restrict customers from entering your establishment. If you are allowing carry-out, limit the number of people to fewer than 10 people including staff in your restaurant and provide social distancing of at least 6 feet. Clean and sanitize all bathroom surfaces once customer leaves.

Q. Can general stores, convenience stores and gas stations serve food?
A. Yes, however they MAY NOT have any self-service food including foods on hot rollers, soda fountains, coffee bars until the rule is lifted. Self-service areas are more susceptible to spreading germs and disease because many people touch tongs, dispensers, etc.

Q. Does the new order apply to outdoor restaurant patios?
A. Yes.

Q. Does the new order apply to hotels?
A. Hotel dining options are included in this order. Hotels may still deliver room service, or provide prepackaged and to-go food. However, hotel buffets including continental breakfast, dine-in restaurants, taverns and bars must close.

Q. How is this being enforced?
A. The Health Director, working in coordination with Environmental Health and the County Sheriff’s office has the authority to protect the community and make decisions regarding individual establishments.

Q. Where do I report restaurants that are not in compliance?
A. Call the Jackson County Health Department at (816)404-9883 or click here

Guidance for Private Business Operations and Employers

Per executive order from Jackson County Executive, Frank White Jr.

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Essential Business are exempt from this order. Find a full list of Essential Businesses

*The intent of this order is to ensure that the maximum number of people self-isolate in their places of residence to the maximum extent feasible, while enabling essential services to continue, to slow the spread of COVID-19 to the maximum extent possible. Only staff that are required for Essential Business Operations are allowed to be at work.*

Employers of Essential Business Operations should:

- Maximize telecommuting options for as many employees as possible.
- Prioritize protective actions for employees who are at higher risk of severe illness.
- Disallow any sick employee to report for work, and send home any that become ill at work.
- Consider staggering start and end times to reduce large numbers of people coming together at the same time.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched areas (doorknobs, tabletops, countertops, phones, keyboards, etc.)
Ensure all employees are following strict sanitation guidelines including, handwashing, surface sanitation and regularly sanitizing all frequently touched surfaces such as doorknobs and registers

All employees should be screened using CDC guidelines identify the key symptoms to watch for such as fever, cough and shortness of breath. Employers should immediately require anyone who has the symptoms to leave.

Q. I have an essential business, can I stay open?
A. Yes, however, the intent of this order is to ensure that the maximum number of people self-isolate. Non-essential staff are to stay at home.

Q. My business provides both essential and non-essential business services. What do I do?
A. Only provide services that fall under essential business operations defined by The County.

Q. Are auto dealerships consider essential businesses?
A. Auto body repair and service repair are essential, auto sales are NOT. If a dealership has both service and sales departments service can be open but sales must close.

Q. Do my employees need to provide documentation to show they work for essential businesses?
A. No, currently, there is no requirement to show documentation. A number of employers are choosing to write their own letter for each employee, but that is not a County (or regional) requirement.

Q. My business is not essential, can I go into my business and not open to the public?
A. Minimal staff may go into businesses to conduct the essential functions to maintain the business (payroll, taxes, maintenance and upkeep of equipment, etc.)

Q. Is there assistance available to my business?
A. Please see the Missouri Department of Economic Development and read about Small Business Administration’s loans.

Q. Where can I learn more about essential and non-essential businesses?
A. Please see the Jackson County Government’s FAQ page.

Q. What do I do if an employee has had direct contact with a confirmed COVID-19 case (outside of my business)?
A. If an employee has DIRECT Contact with a confirmed case outside of your business they will be required by the Health Department to self-quarantine for 14 days. Their office or workspace must be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected. Include all high-touch surfaces including desktops, doorknobs and light switches. Also include bathrooms, kitchens and any common gathering space. – The individual cleaning MUST wear gloves, no mask or hazmat suits are needed.
Q. What do I do if an employee tests positive for COVID-19?
A. When an individual tests positive for COVID-19 all persons that have been in DIRECT* Contact with them will be contacted by that the health department. The Health Department will require those persons to self-quarantine for 14 days from point of exposure. The office or workspace where the positive tested employee works must be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected. Include all high-touch surfaces including desktops, doorknobs and light switches. Also include bathrooms, kitchens and any common gathering space. The indidual cleaning MUST wear gloves, no mask or hazmat suits are needed. The business does not need to close. For all other employees, self-monitor for symptoms, and if any individual becomes ill they should not be at work.

Q. What do I do if an employee is sick but is not a confirmed COVID-19 case?
A. All sick employees should be sent home. If a sick employee is later tested positive for COVID-19, the Health Department will be in contact with persons the indidual has had DIRECT* contact with. Employers should take steps to make it more feasible for their employees to work in ways that minimize close contact with large numbers of people.

*DIRECT Contact = face to face contact (less than 6ft), shared enclosed area (car or small office space) and direct physical contact

Guidance for Nonprofits and Social Service Sectors

Per executive order from Jackson County Executive, Frank White Jr.

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Organizations serving social service needs are considered Essential Business are exempt from this order. Find a full list of Essential Businesses

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required for Essential Business Operations are allowed to be at work.

Q. What is considered a human service operation?
A. Any provider funded by DHS, DCFS or Medicaid; long-term care facilities; home-based and residential settings for adults, seniors, children, and/or people with disabilities or mental illness; transitional facilities; field offices for food, cash assistance, medical coverage, child care, vocational services or rehabilitation services; developmental centers; adoption agencies; businesses that provide food, shelter, and social services and other necessities of life for needy individuals.

Guidance for Retail

Per executive order from Jackson County Executive, Frank White Jr.

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We understand that many residents will rely on larger retailers to purchase needed food and supplies. They are a valuable asset to the community! Please advise that all retailers should limit chances for community spread disease and should encourage social distancing to be used among employees and patrons.

Q. Will grocery stores still be open to purchase food and supplies?
A. Yes, please be aware of your surroundings and practice social distancing (of at least 6 feet) between yourself and other customers.

Q. Are craft and hobby stores, such as Hobby Lobby, JoAnn Fabric or Michaels essential businesses?
A. No. These stores must be closed, however customers can purchase from their online sites.

Q. Do my employees need to provide documentation to show they work for essential businesses?
A. No, currently, there is no requirement to show documentation. A number of employers are choosing to write their own letter for each employee, but that is not a County (or regional) requirement.

Q. Are 24 hour stores still open?
A. Be aware that stores may limit their hours to restock, clean and sanitize stores. Please call ahead if you are unsure of store operating hours.

Q. Is it safe to go to stores?
A. The Health Department recommends limiting interactions and shopping if possible. Take precautions, wash your hands, use hand sanitizer, and do not touch your face, mouth or eyes. Wipe down any hard surfaces with a wipe.

Q. Can non-essential stores provide delivery or curbside service?
A. No, all businesses deemed non-essential by Jackson County must close. Customers may purchase items through online stores and have them shipped directly to their residences via USPS, UPS or FedEx.

Q. Can vape and tobacco retailers remain open?
A. No.

Q. Is it safe for elderly and at risk to come to my store?
A. Yes, however this population is still at greater risk. Consider encouraging elderly and at risk populations to order through your delivery or online services or sending someone else to shop for them. Regularly clean and sanitize all surfaces, regardless of who enters your store. Consider limiting store hours to spend more time cleaning and restocking. Consider allowing only elderly (60+) and at risk populations including pregnant women, people with chronic disease or those who are immunocompromised into your store during the first part of the day. This allows these high risk groups to shop when stores are freshly cleaned and sanitized and less crowded.

Q. Can grocery stores keep self-service coolers, delis, salad bars and buffets open?
A. No, they MAY NOT have any self-service food coolers, delis, salad bars or buffets open until the rule is lifted. Self-service areas are more susceptible to spreading germs and disease because many people touch tongs, dispensers, etc.

Q. Is Independence Center open?
A. Independence Center is not open.

**Guidance for Salons/ Specialty/ Gyms**

*Per executive order from Jackson County Executive, Frank White Jr.*

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This includes any public facing business such as hair salons, shops, tattoo parlors, gyms, nail salons, spas, specialty stores and gift shops.

Q. Can my gym open?
A. No, all gyms must close

Q. How can I provide services for my clients?
A. Consider streaming options; use video streaming to deliver classes.

Q. Are baseball, soccer, basketball or any other sport clinic camps or training facilities open?
A. No, these are considered gyms and must close.

Q. Does the new order apply to private clubs, such as country clubs?
A. Yes, any non-essential business is closed.

Q. Can general stores, convenience stores and gas stations serve food?
A. Yes, however they MAY NOT have any self-service food including foods on hot rollers, soda fountains, coffee bars until the rule is lifted. Self-service areas are more susceptible to spreading germs and disease because many people touch tongs, dispensers, etc.

Q. Can my store or small business stay open?
A. If your store or business provides essential services, including food, pharmacy or medical supplies it may remain open. All other businesses must close.

Q. Can non-essential stores provide delivery or curbside service?
A. No, all businesses deemed non-essential by Jackson County must close. Customers may purchase items through online stores and have them shipped directly to their residences via USPS, UPS or FedEx.

Q. Can vape and tobacco retailers remain open?
A. No.

Q. Can customers come into my store?
A. Yes, if you are selling essential needs such as food, pharmacy or medical supplies customers may come into your store. Your store must adhere to gatherings fewer than 10. If this
is not possible, consider using social media and online systems to sell goods. Promote gift card purchasing opportunities.

Q. Can my salon or spa open?
A. No, all salons, and spas must close.

Q. Can dog groomers be open?
A. No

Q. Can dog boarding (day and night) and veterinary centers be open?
A. Yes. Dog boarding and veterinary services may remain open, because they provide care for animals including housing and medical services.

Q. Can carwashes be open?
A. Yes. All self-service vacuums, hoses and wash rags must be shut down. Staff working must keep social distancing of at least 6 feet and clean and sanitize all frequently touched surfaces regularly.

Q. Can my store sell its goods and services online?
A. Online commerce is allowable, however the majority of these sales should be conducted from employees telecommuting. If staff needs to fulfill orders in the store; fulfillment should be completed by minimal staff, all packages must be shipped – NO at store pickups.

Q. Can I go into my store, salon, tattoo parlor and not open for business?
A. Minimal staff may go into businesses to conduct the essential functions to maintain the business (payroll, taxes, maintenance and upkeep of equipment, etc.)

Q. Is there assistance available to my business?
A. Please see the Missouri Department of Economic Development and read about Small Business Administration’s loans.

**Guidance for Hotels**

**Per executive order from Jackson County Executive, Frank White Jr.**

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COVID-19 Guidance

- Ensure all employees are following strict sanitation guidelines including, handwashing, surface sanitation and regularly sanitizing all frequently touched surfaces such as doorknobs and registers
- All employees should be screened using CDC guidelines identify the key symptoms to watch for such as fever, cough and shortness of breath. Employers should immediately require anyone who has the symptoms to leave.

Q. Can hotels stay open?
A. Yes. Hotels are considered a residence and may choose to stay open.

Q. Do hotel dining areas fall under restaurants, bars and taverns?
A. Yes. All hotel buffets (including continental breakfasts), dine-in restaurants, bars and taverns must close until April 24th.

Q. How can I get meals from my hotel?
A. Room service and prepackaged to-go foods may be served.

Q. Do hotels adhere to fewer than 10 people rule?
A. Individual rooms adhere to hotel's set capacity. Fewer than 10 persons applies to all lobby and general gathering areas.

Guidance for Real-estate and Housing

Per executive order from Jackson County Executive, Frank White Jr.

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Q. Can real-estates activities continue?
A. Yes, realtors may still show homes. All home viewers must keep social distancing of at least 6 feet and must be limited to groups of fewer than 10 (including realtors and home-owners). There is risk when people have face to face contact. Multiple people entering and exiting homes each day increases the risk of COVID-19 spreading. All homes should be cleaned and sanitized regularly, and home viewers should limit their contact with unnecessary surfaces.
Q. A home is currently under contract, can it still proceed?
A. Yes, pending contracts can proceed.

Q. Can apartments and houses for rent be shown?
A. Yes. All apartment and houses viewers must keep social distancing of at least 6 feet and must be limited to groups of fewer than 10 (including realtors and home-owners). There is risk when people have face to face contact. Multiple people entering and exiting houses and apartments each day increases the risk of COVID-19 spreading. All homes should be cleaned and sanitized regularly, and viewers should limit their contact with unnecessary surfaces.

Q. I am planning to move before the Stay at Home is lifted, can that proceed?
A. Yes. The rule excludes actions related to housing. However, if you are moving into a private apartment complex, living community or housing complex please check with their management as they may have temporary guidance or restrictions.

**Guidance for Social/Cultural Facilities**

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This includes businesses such as community centers, museums, arcades, bowling alleys, recreation centers, trampoline parks. This decision was not made lightly and we understand the strain this is putting on your business, but we are in the midst of a public health emergency. We have taken these steps in order to reduce the transmission of COVID-19 in our communities and now is the time to be vigilant.

Q. Can my bowling alley open?
A. No, all non-essential businesses must close until April 24th.

Q. If bowling is open, can they serve food and/or drinks?
A. No, all non-essential businesses must close until April 24th.

Q. Are parks and recreation and community centers open?
A. Jackson County Parks + Rec centers are currently closed. All Individual municipalities’ community centers must close to the public. Only, essential staff may be there to perform essential business operations.

Q. Are parks open?
A. Many parks are open air, residents are allowed to visit parks to walk, run, bike or hike. Maintain social distancing from any other group.

Q. Are playgrounds open?
A. No, playgrounds and equipment are closed.

Q. Can I take my child(ren) to a bowling alley, arcade, trampoline park, etc.?
A. No, all entertainment venues are closed.

Guidance for Faith Based Communities

Per executive order from Jackson County Executive, Frank White Jr.

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Q. I attend a worship center in EJC, will services be allowed?
A. No. Places of worship have not been exempted as essential activities under the order. Places of worship can still provide services listed in the order as essential such as food banks and funerals.

Q. How does this impact church and community meals and events?
A. Any community meal or events must be cancelled. Attendees are allowed to pick up to-go or sack meals, but may not eat meals onsite.

Q. Can funerals proceed at places of worship or funeral homes?
A. Funerals may proceed if there are fewer than 10 people in attendance, including funeral and service staff.

Q. Can staff be at the center of worship to provide streaming services?
A. Yes, minimal staff may be in the building to record and stream worship services. However, all individuals must be staff (no volunteers or general congregation members). Ensure social distancing is practiced, any sick employees should not be there, and if employees become sick while there they should be sent home immediately.

Q. Can staff be in the building with no services or congregation?
A. Minimal and essential staff can be in the building to conduct essential functions to maintain the faith center (payroll, taxes, maintenance, and streaming technology)

Q. Can our community have “Car Church”?
A. Yes. If your faith community would like to provide parking lot services for the congregation that is allowable. However, all in attendance must stay in their cars and maintain a social distance of at least 6 feet. Congregants’ car should be parked at least 6 feet from each other in case windows are rolled down. Congregants who are sick should not attend.

Guidance for Funerals

Per executive order from Jackson County Executive, Frank White Jr.

Effective 12:01 am Tuesday, March 24 Jackson County, Missouri, is requiring people to stay-at-home except for essential needs. The intent of this order is to ensure the maximum number of people self-isolate in their places of residence to the maximum extent feasible.

Vulnerable populations including the elderly and those with underlying health conditions must stay-at-home. All community members should stay-at-home except to perform essential duties for business continuity or government functions, to get food, care for a relative or friend, get necessary health care or perform activities related to maintaining a healthy lifestyle during this time.

------- After April 24 Executive Order still limits gathering to fewer than 10. -------

This decision was not made lightly and we understand the strain this is putting on your business, but we are in the midst of a public health emergency. We have taken these steps in order to reduce the transmission of COVID-19 in our communities and now is the time to be vigilant.

Q. Are funeral homes essential businesses?
A. Yes, funeral home and mortuary staff are considered essential businesses.
COVID-19 Guidance

Q. Can funeral proceed at places of worship or funeral homes?
A. Funerals may proceed if there are fewer than 10 persons in attendance, including funeral and service staff.

Q. How do funeral homes ensure they are following order?
A. Maintain a registry of all that attend funerals. Require registry to have contact information of all attendees in case there is a case of COVID-19 after the funeral.

Guidance for Weddings

Per executive order from Jackson County Executive, Frank White Jr.

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Vulnerable populations including the elderly and those with underlying health conditions must stay-at-home. All community members should stay-at-home except to perform essential duties for business continuity or government functions, to get food, care for a relative or friend, get necessary health care or perform activities related to maintaining a healthy lifestyle during this time.

-------- After April 24 Executive Order still limits gathering to fewer than 10. --------

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Q. Can a wedding still proceed?
A. Weddings may proceed if there are fewer than 10 persons in attendance, including wedding party, guests and service staff.

Q. My wedding is in sooner than May 15, what do I do?
A. Speak with your venue, vendors and guests.

Q. Can an outdoor wedding with 10 or more people still go one?
A. No, per the executive order all events are prohibited.

Guidance for Childcare

Early Learning Centers may stay open.
• Childcare and preschool must be carried out in stable groups of 10 children or fewer.
• Staff and children should not move from group to group throughout the day.
• If there is more than one group in a facility, then each group must be in a separate room (no mixing of groups).

DHSS’s Section for Child Care Regulation (SCCR) has taken the following steps:
• During the period of time that schools are closed, licensed child care providers are able to utilize the rules regarding emergency school closings. This allows licensed programs to accommodate enrolled school-age children who need care. The provider will be permitted to exceed the license capacity of the facility by 1/3 during this time.
• SCCR has developed a process to allow for the temporary care of preschool and school-age children. Short-term licenses for a 45-day period are available. These licenses, which are renewable, will be based on an abbreviated inspection that focuses on key health and safety indicators.
• Additionally, SCCR has loosened some regulations for licensed child care providers to allow them to extend their hours of care, and eased administrative burdens related to record keeping requirements.

The Department of Social Services has taken the actions below:
• Child Care Subsidy program benefits are extended for 90 days.
• The Child Care Subsidy program benefits are extended for 90 days.
• The Child Care Subsidy program can pay for additional hours of care for a child’s attendance due to school closure or the parent is required to work additional hours.
• Child Care Subsidy provider application renewals are extended for 90 days.

Q. Where can I find support for parents who are looking for child care?
A. Childcare Aware of Missouri is a resource to help parents looking for childcare assistance. Parents can call 1-866-892-3228 to speak with a referral specialist or visit their website.

Q. Where can parents find information on Child Care Subsidy benefits?
A. Parent are encouraged to reach out to the Family Support Division for help. They can apply for services online by visiting MyDSS.mo.gov, over the phone by calling 1-855-FSD-INFO, or in-person at their nearest Family Support Division Resource Center.
COVID-19 Guidance

Q. We do not currently have a case of COVID-19. What should we do?
A. Child care administrators can take the following steps to help prepare for cases of COVID-19 in the childcare setting as well as more widespread community transmission during which childcare closures might be recommended or required by Public Health:

- Implement social distancing measures to limit close contact, such as choosing activities that minimize close contact and allow for more physical space between children.
- Review, update, and implement emergency operations plans (EOPs).
- Monitor and plan for absenteeism.
- Establish procedures for identifying and sending home children and staff who are sick at childcare.
- Perform routine environmental cleaning.
- Create distancing between classes – including recess, lunches and snacks
- Increase times throughout day that all surfaces are cleaned and sanitized
- Encourage parents to notify center if child will be home
- Encourage parents that are teleworking to consider keeping children home

Q. Do staff members returning from travel need to stay home for 14 days?
A. Review updated CDC information for travelers, including FAQ for travelers, and consult with state and local health officials. Many countries and a few U.S. cities have been elevated to Level 3 places.

Q. We have a COVID-19 case in our childcare community. What should we do?
A. Consider closing if:

- The individual infected with COVID-19 spent time in the childcare setting and had close contact with others while ill. Close contact includes scenarios like being within 6 feet of a confirmed case for about 10 minutes, or if someone with COVID-19 has coughed on you, kissed you, shared utensils with you or you have had direct contact with their body secretions.
- You are observing that high rates of absenteeism among staff and/or children hinders your ability to meet and provide adequate services.

Q. What steps should be taken during a closure?
A. Conduct routine environmental cleaning of frequently touched surfaces.

- If possible, assess what close contacts the case had while ill. Notify close contacts and ask that those with symptoms contact their healthcare provider and self-isolate for 7 days OR until 72 hours from the time that fever has resolved (and symptoms get better) – whichever is longer. Those who do not have symptoms should self-quarantine for 14 days and monitor for symptoms.
• Discourage children from gathering or socializing in large groups elsewhere such as at places like a friend’s house. This reduces the potential for transmission.
• Work on communication to families and staff to ensure that when childcare re-opens, ill people know to remain home until well and that those with COVID-19-like symptoms self-isolate for 7 days OR until 72 hours from the time that fever has resolved (and symptoms get better) -- whichever is longer.

Q. What actions should my center take if a sick child or staff member attended school before being confirmed as a COVID-19 case?
A. Contact the Health Department. Local health officials may recommend temporary center closures.

• Centers should work with the local health department and other relevant leadership to communicate the possible COVID-19 exposure to the center community. In such a circumstance, it is critical to maintain confidentiality of the child or staff member as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act.
• If a child or staff member has been identified with COVID-19, center and program administrators should seek guidance from local health officials to determine when children and staff should return to the center and what additional steps are needed. In addition, children and staff who are well but are taking care of or share a home with someone with a case of COVID-19 should follow instructions from local health officials to determine when to return to childcare.

**Guidance for Schools**

**Per executive order from Jackson County Executive, Frank White Jr.**

Effective 12:01 am Tuesday, March 24 Jackson County, Missouri, is requiring people to stay-at-home except for essential needs. The intent of this order is to ensure the maximum number of people self-isolate in their places of residence to the maximum extent feasible.

Vulnerable populations including the elderly and those with underlying health conditions must stay-at-home. All community members should stay-at-home except to perform essential duties for business continuity or government functions, to get food, care for a relative or friend, get necessary health care or perform activities related to maintaining a healthy lifestyle during this time. **This is a developing situation and dates and information may change. Check back for updates.**

While this order pertains to students in the building, the Health Department strongly encourages all employers, including schools, to allow all non-essential employees to stay home during this period.

• Promote video streamed training and professional development prior to students’ return
• Limit any necessary in-person training to gatherings of fewer than 10.
The Health Department strongly encourages school districts to lessen any regulations regarding PTO or sick leave during this timeframe.

All employees should be screened using CDC guidelines identify the key symptoms to watch for such as fever, cough and shortness of breath. Employers should immediately require anyone who has the symptoms to leave.

Q. Does this include public schools?
A. Yes, all school districts located in Jackson County are to remain closed to students through April 24.

Q. Does this include private and parochial schools?
A. Yes, all schools within Jackson County are to remain closed to students through April 24.

Q. Will students receive meals and lunch?
A. Contact your individual school district to find out more about meals. If any meals are served they will be subject to Jackson County Environmental Health Department guidelines.

Q. Will schools be closed longer?
A. Currently, schools are closed through April 24th. This may change. Please check with your child’s school.

Q. Can my school allow students and families to pick up meals and supplies?
A. This is a case by case decision made by individual school districts. If your district chooses to open school doors to provide food, school supplies or personal belongs avoid ANY mass gatherings of 10 or more. Take care to limit the amount of families (encourage families to send only one representative per family) in the school at any time, consider asking families to drive up and place food and items directly into the back seats of cars, create lines that require people to stand at least 6 feet apart, ask any person showing any signs of illness to leave immediately. Wear gloves, wash hands and hand sanitize often.

Q. Does this include early Childcare Centers?
A. See Childcare Centers information below.

Q. Will my child’s school provide childcare?
A. We understand that this is a very difficult logistic issue for many families. Currently, individual schools may be providing childcare for families on a case by case basis. Please check with your child’s school to learn more details. If you have the ability to work from home, please make plans to keep children at home. There are many parents that serve as first responders, healthcare workers, and sales associates who are serving the public. Please be cognizant of this when determining if childcare is essential for your family.

Q. When schools resume, what actions should my school take if a sick student or staff member attended school before being confirmed as a COVID-19 case?
A. Call the Jackson County Health Department.
• Schools should work with the local health department and other relevant leadership to communicate the possible COVID-19 exposure to the school community. In such a circumstance, it is critical to maintain confidentiality of the child or staff member as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act.
• If a student or staff member has been identified with COVID-19, school and program administrators should seek guidance from local health officials to determine when students and staff should return to school and what additional steps are needed. In addition, students and staff who are well but are taking care of or share a home with someone with a case of COVID-19 should follow instructions from local health officials to determine when to return to school.

**Guidance for Tech Colleges/ Community Colleges/ Training Schools**

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*This includes any higher education centers including tech colleges, community colleges, and training schools. This decision was not made lightly and we understand the strain this is putting on your business, but we are in the midst of a public health emergency. We have taken these steps in order to reduce the transmission of COVID-19 in our communities and now is the time to be vigilant.*

While this order pertains to students in the building, the Health Department strongly encourages all employers, including schools, to allow all non-essential employees to stay home during this period.

• Promote video streamed training and professional development prior to students’ return
• Limit any necessary in-person training to gatherings of fewer than 10.
• The Health Department strongly encourages school districts to lessen any regulations regarding PTO or sick leave during this timeframe.
- All employees should be screened using CDC guidelines identify the key symptoms to watch for such as fever, cough and shortness of breath. Employers should immediately require anyone who has the symptoms to leave.

Q. How long will my institutions be closed?
A. Per County Order all K-12 schools should be closed through April 24, many institutions are following the same protocols. Reach out to your individual institution to learn about timelines and closure updates.

**Guidance for Dental and Optometric**

Dental offices are considered healthcare and public health operations and are therefore considered essential business operations. However, the American Dental Association has called upon Dentists to postpone all elective procedures.

Eye clinics are considered healthcare and public health operations and are therefore considered essential business operations. However, the American Optometric Association recommends postponing all elective and non-urgent visits.

**Guidance for Mental Health, Physical Therapy and Chiropractors**

Mental health, physical therapy and chiropractic services are all considered healthcare operations and are therefore considered essential business operations. However, limiting elective procedures or visits is advised. The CDC has compiled guidance and information for medical professionals.

**Other Questions or Concerns**

For any other questions

Check out our website

Email us COVID19@tmcmed.org

Call us (816)404-9883

Contact us here