

**Order of the Columbia/Boone County
Public Health and Human Services Director**

Boone County Order No. 2020-08C

**Notice and Issuance of Rules and Regulations regarding Gatherings in
Boone County – Extension of Reopening Plan – Phase 2, Step 3**

**JURISDICTIONAL NOTE – These Rules and Regulations apply to all areas
within Boone County outside the city limits of the City of Columbia.**

Facts

1. The United States Center for Disease Control and Prevention has reported that a novel (new) coronavirus that was first detected in China and has now been detected in more than 100 locations internationally, including in the United States.

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 a highly contagious disease that has been spreading rapidly worldwide since approximately December 2019.

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 now been detected in the State of Missouri and Boone County, 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 Boone County and on May 4, 2020 began a slow reopening of the local economy with Order 2020-05C, 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 2020-06C 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 2020-07C 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 have increased from 21 active cases on May 26, 2020 to 231 active cases on July 8, 2020 with a peak of 52 new daily cases occurring on July 8, 2020.

16. At this time the Director finds that due to the influx of new cases it is necessary to pause the reopening plan in order to allow the resources for contact tracing and exposure notification to be able to address the community spread of the disease and to ensure the capacity of other local resources is adequate to meet the increased need.

Legal Basis of Rules and Regulations

17. 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, incorporated by reference in Boone County's Code of Health Regulations, Chapter 8.

18. Boone County's Code of Health Regulations, and the terms of this Order, apply to all areas of Boone County except those areas within the corporate limits of the City of Columbia. See RSMo Secs. 192.300 and 192.310.

19. 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.

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 or may become epidemic in the County and enact the regulations for Boone County as Boone County's Reopening Plan – Phase 2, Step 3 previously entered as Order 2020-07C. The rules and regulations set forth in Order 2020-07C shall remain in full force and effect as if fully set forth herein and **will expire on August 10, 2020 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

7.10.2020

Date