

**Order of the Columbia/Boone County  
Public Health and Human Services Director  
Boone County Order No. 2020-01C**

**Notice and Issuance of Rules and Regulations  
regarding Gatherings in Boone County**

**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 March 15, 2020, SARS-CoV-2 virus has been responsible for nearly 200,000 cases of COVID-19 resulting in over 6,000 deaths worldwide.
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, including the elderly, and those people with blood disorders, chronic kidney and liver disease, compromised immune systems (immunosuppression), recent pregnancy, endocrine disorders, metabolic disorders, heart disease, lung disease, and neurological conditions (collectively “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.

## Legal Basis of Rules and Regulations

10. 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.

11. 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.

12. 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 city and enact the following regulations for Boone County, notice of which is hereby given.

### **Rules and Regulations**

#### **Article I. Restrictions on Public Gatherings**

Section I.1 **Purpose and construction of rules and regulations.** The purpose of the rules and regulations contained herein is to contain the spread of SARS-CoV-2 and COVID-19. The rules and regulations established herein are remedial in nature and should be interpreted

consistent with the intended purpose.

**Section I.2 Bars and nightclubs without food service.** All bars, taverns, brew pubs, breweries, microbreweries, distilleries, wineries, tasting rooms, special licensees, clubs, and other places of public accommodation offering alcoholic beverages for on-premises consumption in Boone County that do not prepare food for on-site consumption shall limit occupancy to fifty percent (50%) of the capacity otherwise allowed pursuant to fire or building codes up to a maximum of fifty people, including employees and staff located on premises.

**Section I.3 Restaurants and retail food facilities.** All restaurants and retail food facilities that prepare food for on-site consumption in Boone County shall limit dine-in food service occupancy to fifty percent (50%) of the capacity otherwise allowed pursuant to fire or building codes up to a maximum of fifty people, including employees and staff located on premises. In addition to on-site service to customers in compliance with these rules, restaurants and retail food facilities may continue to operate for purposes of preparing and offering food to customers via delivery service, to be picked up or for drive-thru. “Restaurants and retail food facilities” includes but is not limited to bars, taverns, brew pubs, breweries, microbreweries, distilleries, wineries, tasting rooms, special licensees, clubs, and other places of public accommodation offering alcoholic beverages for on-premises consumption in Boone County that also prepare

food for on-site consumption.

**Section I.4 Entertainment venues.** All movie theaters, live performance venues, bowling alleys and arcades and other entertainment venues shall limit occupancy to fifty percent (50%) of the capacity otherwise allowed pursuant to fire or building codes up to a maximum of fifty people, including employees and staff located on premises.

**Section I.5 Gym and fitness facilities.** All gyms and fitness centers shall limit occupancy to fifty percent (50%) of the capacity otherwise allowed pursuant to fire or building codes up to a maximum of fifty people, including employees and staff located on premises.

**Section I.6 Limitation on other public gatherings.**

- (a) All other intentional gatherings or gathering places not specifically referenced in this Article are limited to fifty people, including both public and private gatherings. This section does not apply to places of business not open to the public.
- (b) All gatherings of High-Risk Individuals are limited to ten people.
- (c) All concerts, conferences (greater than 50% venue capacity or 50 people, whichever is less) and indoor sporting events are prohibited.

**Section I.7 Exemptions.** The following are exempt from the restriction in this Article:

- (a) Cafeterias, commissaries, and restaurants located within hospitals, nursing homes, or similar facilities.

- (b) Adult detention facilities and juvenile justice facilities, or similar facilities.
- (c) Grocery stores and farmer's markets, except that dine-in facilities in a grocery store remain subject to the restrictions in this article and shall reduce allowed seating in the dine-in facility by fifty percent (50%) or limit seating to fifty patrons, whichever is less.
- (d) Pharmacies.
- (e) Food banks.
- (f) Crisis shelters or similar institutions.

**So Ordered.**



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

3-19-2020

Date