

Knox County Commission
107 N. Fourth Street, Edina, Mo. 63537

Evan Glasgow, Presiding Commissioner
Roger Parton, Western District Commissioner
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SOCIAL DISTANCING ORDER
COURT ORDER# 20-3-23

**AN ORDER REQUIRING SOCIAL DISTANCING AND OTHER
PRECAUTIONS WITHIN KNOX COUNTY TO MINIMIZE THE IMPACT OF
THE COVID-19 VIRUS**

WHEREAS, 192.300, RSMo., provides that the County Commission may make and promulgate Ordinances as will tend to enhance the public health and prevent the entrance of infectious, contagious, communicable or dangerous diseases into such county; and

WHEREAS, in December 2019, medical professionals detected a novel coronavirus, now designated as “SARS-COV-2”, which causes a disease known as “coronavirus disease 2019” abbreviated and popularly known as “COVID-19”; and

WHEREAS, on January 30, 2020, the World Health Organization Director General declared an outbreak of COVID-19 as a Health Emergency or International Concern, advising countries to prepare for containment, detection, isolation and case management, contact tracing and prevention of onward spread of the disease; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization Director General characterized COVID-19 as a pandemic; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared the COVID-19 outbreak a national emergency; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the Governor of the State of Missouri declared the COVID-19 outbreak a state emergency; and

WHEREAS, on March 15, 2020, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) had confirmed at least 3,244 cases of COVID-19, including 61 deaths in the United States; and

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the President of the United States issued guidelines encouraging the public for the next fifteen days to avoid social gatherings in groups of more than ten (10) people and to avoid eating or drinking at bars, restaurants, and food courts and instead use drive-thru, pick-up, or delivery options; and

WHEREAS, on March 20, 2020, the Knox County Health Department reports testing and voluntary quarantine and monitoring has begun in the county of Knox; and

WHEREAS, the Governor of Missouri has, in accordance with the guidelines from the President and the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention, ordered the following: “every person in the State of Missouri shall avoid social gatherings of more than ten (10) people. For purposes of this Order, “social gatherings” shall mean any planned or spontaneous event or convening that would bring together more than ten (10) people in a single space at the same time. In accordance with the guidelines from the President and the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention, every person in the State of Missouri shall avoid eating or drinking at restaurants, bars, or food courts; provided, however, that the use of drive-thru, pickup, or delivery options is allowed throughout the duration of this Order. In accordance with the guidelines from the President and the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention, people shall not visit nursing homes, long-term care facilities, retirement homes, or assisted living homes unless to provide critical assistance. In accordance with the guidelines from the President and the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention, schools shall remain closed. This Order does not prohibit schools from providing childcare and Food and Nutritional Services for those children that qualify. Teachers and staff may enter the building as long as they follow the directives set forth in this Order. This Order does not prohibit people from visiting a variety of places, including grocery stores, gas stations, parks, and banks, so long as necessary precautions are taken and maintained to reduce the transmission of COVID-19, including maintaining at least six feet (6’) of distance between all individuals that are not family members. For offices and workplaces that remain open, individuals shall practice good hygiene and, where feasible, work from home in order to achieve optimum isolation from COVID-19. The more that people reduce their public contact, the sooner COVID-19 will be contained and the sooner this Order will expire. Local public health authorities are hereby directed to carry out and enforce the provisions of this Order by means of civil proceedings. The Order will take effect beginning 12:01 A.M. Monday, March 23, 2020 and remain in effect until 12:01 A.M. Monday, April 6, 2020 unless extended by further order of the Director of the Department of Health and Senior Services.” and

WHEREAS, Knox County Health Officer, Lori Moots-Clair has found the aforementioned conditions constitute a threat to the health, safety and welfare of the residents of Knox County, and create a public health emergency; and

WHEREAS, said County Health officer does recommend passage and implementation of the following order, in compliance with, Section 192.300, the Rules and Regulations of the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, and Missouri Executive Order #20-02.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF KNOX COUNTY, MISSOURI, AS FOLLOWS:

The precautions ordered below are necessary to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Knox County, Missouri, and are consistent with the authority granted the County Commissioners in Chapter 192, RSMo. This order enhances the public health and is aimed to prevent the entrance and contain the spread of COVID-19, an infectious, contagious, communicable and dangerous disease into the county. Therefore, the citizens of Knox County, Missouri shall obey by the following orders:

Section 1-- In accordance with the guidelines from the Governor of Missouri, the President of the United States and the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention, and the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, every person in the County of Knox **shall avoid social gatherings of more than ten (10) people.** For purposes of this order, “social gatherings” shall mean any planned or spontaneous event or convening that would bring together more than ten (10) people in a single space at the same time.

Section 2-- In accordance with the guidelines from the Governor of Missouri, the President of the United States and the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention, and the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, every person in the County of Knox **shall avoid eating or drinking at restaurants, bars or food courts;** provided, however that the use of drive-thru, pickup, or delivery options is allowed throughout the order.

Section 3-- In accordance with the guidelines from the Governor of Missouri, the President of the United States and the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention, and the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, people **shall not visit nursing homes, long-term care facilities, retirement homes or assisted living homes** unless to provide critical assistance.

Section 4-- In accordance with the guidelines from the Governor of Missouri, the President of the United States and the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention, and the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, **schools shall remain closed.** This Order does not prohibit schools from providing childcare and food and nutrition services for those children that qualify. Teachers and staff may enter the building as long as they follow the directives set forth in this order.

This order **DOES NOT** prohibit people from visiting a variety of places, including grocery stores, gas stations, parks and banks, so long as necessary precautions are taken and maintained to reduce the transmission of COVID-19, including maintaining a minimum distance of six (6) feet between all individuals that are not an immediate family member.

For offices and workplaces that remain open individuals shall practice good hygiene and, where feasible, work from home in order to achieve optimum isolation from COVID-19. The more that people reduce public contact, the sooner COVID-19 will be contained and the sooner this order will expire.

Local health authorities are authorized by not only the state government but also the county government to enforce this ORDER by means of civil proceedings.

This ORDER is to take effect upon approval and signature this day March 23, 2020 and will remain in effect until 12:01 a.m. Monday April 6, 2020, unless extended by further orders of the local health authority and county commission.

Evan Glasgow, Presiding Commissioner

Ronnie Leckbee, Eastern Commissioner

Roger Parton, Western Commissioner

Attest: Marlene Spory, County Clerk

Filed: March 23, 2020