



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Missouri Center for Public Health Excellence

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March 20, 2020

Governor Michael Parson
Governor's Office
PO Box 720
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Honorable Governor Parson:

The Missouri Center for Public Health Excellence is made up of public health departments that cover approximately 50 percent of the state's population and whose hospitals serve the majority of the state's residents when they are in need of specialty care. It is our collective public health experience that brings us to the point of requesting that you and your office take the following steps to help mitigate the effect of COVID-19 on our communities and the state. While we have taken local efforts to reduce the spread of this virus, our hospitals and community do not stand alone and we have patients coming from across the state for care and residents going to unprotected communities.

We request that you immediately limit statewide as minimal restrictions:

1. We have to make every effort to support our frontline workers including first responders, fire, police, health care, ambulance and public health workers, this includes the provision of childcare, testing and respite care.
2. That only retail business that sell groceries fill prescriptions, and gas stations be open to the public for entry. All other retail business should be done by drive through, curb side pickup, and electronic on line orders only.
3. That all schools be closed until further notice, probably the end of the school year
4. Limit all gatherings to 10 or less except governmental functions and business deemed necessary for the health and welfare of our nation, state, and community whose business cannot be done electronically. (A gathering does not include the normal household occupancy.)
5. That residents only leave their homes, to obtain medical care or testing, food, medical supplies, or to work
6. That nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and hospitals be closed to any visitor and that staff entering and leaving the facilities be checked for temperature and symptoms.

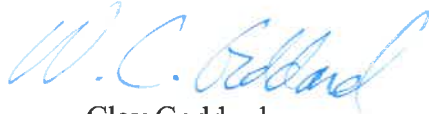
Vision: *Creating Optimal Health for All Missourians*

Mission: *To ensure a competent, diverse, sustainable, and prepared public health system exists in Missouri.*

This is a public health emergency and needs uniform social distancing across our state. It is likely that local governments may find it necessary to take even more assertive steps. We must take these steps to protect our citizens and the integrity of the state. Already other states are limiting travel to and from states with high volume spread.

We do not take this request lightly but feel that at this time there is no other way to protect our residents and health providers without requesting that our efforts become statewide efforts.

Sincerely,



Clay Goddard
President



Rex Archer, MD, MPH
Vice President

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