

**Order of the City of Columbia Director of
Public Health and Human Services
Order No. 2020-02**

**Notice and Issuance of Rules and Regulations
regarding Gatherings in 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 is present in the City of Columbia, with local condition 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. Among other authority that may be available under Missouri and United States law, Sec. 11-98 of the City of Columbia Code of Ordinances (“Code”) states:

Whenever the director shall declare that any malignant, infectious or contagious disease is or may become epidemic in the city, or any part thereof, he shall immediately, or as soon thereafter as possible, give notice

to that effect to the citizens of the city and the country surrounding the same, and shall also give notice of the rules and regulations adopted by him for the enforcement of quarantine within the city or portion thereof. He shall take such steps and adopt such measures as he may deem necessary to prevent the introduction and spreading of such disease, and to this end he shall have power to quarantine the city against persons coming into or leaving the city during the continuation of such epidemic. Whenever he shall deem it necessary, he shall have the power to forbid and prevent the assembling of congregations of persons within the city and to order and enforce the closing of places of business and amusements.

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 the City of Columbia, notice of which is hereby given. This Order 2020-2 supersedes and replaces Order 2020-1 effective 2:00 a.m. March 21, 2020.

Rules and Regulations

Article I. Restrictions on Public Gatherings

Section 1.01 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 1.02 **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 the City of Columbia that do not prepare food for on-site are closed to the public for indoor and outdoor seating. Carry-out service is allowed to the extent allowed by state and local law so long as appropriate precautions to limit the spread of COVID-19, including but not limited to social distancing techniques, are used in providing service.

Section 1.03 **Restaurants and retail food facilities.** All restaurants and retail food facilities that prepare food for on-site consumption in the City of Columbia shall be closed to the public for indoor and outdoor seating. Restaurants and retail food facilities are encouraged to operate for purposes of preparing and offering food to customers via delivery service, window service, drive-through service, drive-up service, or carry-out service so long as every such person involved implements appropriate precautions to limit the spread of COVID-19, including but not limited to social distancing. “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 preparing and offering food for sale. The City of Columbia shall not enforce any provision of an ordinance, permit, or other restriction

that would, as applied to the specific circumstances, prohibit an existing restaurant or retail food facility from providing delivery service, window service, walk-up service, drive-through service, drive-up service, carry-out service for food during the state of emergency declared by the City Manager on March 16, 2020. Carry-out service of alcohol is allowed to the extent allowed by state and local law so long as appropriate precautions to limit the spread of COVID-19, including but not limited to social distancing techniques, are used in providing service.

Section 1.04 Entertainment venues. All movie theaters, live performance venues, bowling alleys and arcades and other entertainment venues shall limit occupancy to a maximum of ten people, including employees and staff located on premises.

Section 1.05 Gym and fitness facilities. All gyms and fitness centers shall limit occupancy to to a maximum of ten people, including employees and staff located on premises.

Section 1.06 Limitation on other gatherings.

(a) All other intentional gatherings or gathering places not specifically referenced in this Article are limited to ten people, including both public and private gatherings. This paragraph does not apply to places of business not open to the public.

(b) All concerts, conferences and indoor sporting events are prohibited.

Section 1.07 Exemptions. The following are exempt from the restriction in

this Article but encouraged to use appropriate precautions to limit the spread of COVID-19, including but not limited to social distancing techniques:

- (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, convenience stores and the Columbia Farmers Market at 1769 W. Ash Street, if no dine-in service is provided;
- (d) Pharmacies;
- (e) Food banks and pantries;
- (f) Crisis shelters or similar institutions;
- (g) Childcare centers.

Section 1.08 **Critical Infrastructure.** The federal government has identified 16 critical infrastructure sectors whose assets, systems, and networks, whether physical or virtual, are considered so vital to the United States that their incapacitation or destruction would have a debilitating effect on security, economic security, public health or safety, or any combination thereof. See <https://www.cisa.gov/identifying-critical-infrastructure-during-covid-19>. The preceding rules and regulations do not apply to these critical infrastructure sectors except to the extent that they are open to the public. Employers in these areas are encouraged to implement social distancing measures listed above to the extent possible.

So Ordered.

Stephanie Browning

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

3, 20, 2020

Date

