



St. Louis County Re-Opening Guidance

[COVID-19 News and Updates](#)

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St. Louis County Department of Public Health COVID-19 Update May 13, 2020

Business Specific Guidance Available

Together, in coordination with the City of St. Louis and the Economic Development owing protocols Partnership, business operating guidelines for the entire St. Louis Region have been released and posted online. The follcan be found at stlcorona.com.

- [Hotels](#)
- [Commercial Office Building Operations](#)
- [Restaurant \(with dine-in\) Operations](#)
- [Transportation Services](#)

- [Business Office Operations](#)
- [Construction, Manufacturing and Repair](#)
- [Personal Services](#)
- [Retail Operations](#)

Individual businesses can ask specific questions about how the guidance applies to their business by emailing business-covid@stlouisco.com.



Anxiety and Assistance

It is normal to be worried and stressed during times of crisis. While worry is a part of anxiety, people with anxiety tend to experience more exaggerated feelings of worry and tension. Some common symptoms include:

- Uncontrollable worry or dread
- Stomach and digestion problems
- Troubles with concentration, memory or thinking clearly
- Increased heart rate
- Changes in energy; difficulty sleeping
- Irritability and/or restlessness

Resources are available to help guide and walk alongside you during these unfamiliar, and difficult times. Additional information regarding resources and assistance can be found [here](#).

St. Louis County Department of Public Health COVID-19 Update May 12, 2020

How to Wear, Properly Sanitize and Remove Cloth Face Coverings

As previously released, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends wearing cloth face coverings in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain, especially in areas of significant community-based transmission.

Cloth face coverings should:

- fit snugly but comfortably against the side of the face
- be secured with ties or ear loops
- include multiple layers of fabric
- allow for breathing without restriction
- be able to be laundered and machine dried without damage or change to shape

Cloth Masks should be washed and cleaned regularly, depending on frequency of use. A washing machine should suffice in properly washing a face covering. It is important to maintain proper removal of masks, as individuals should be careful not to touch their eyes, nose, and mouth when removing their face covering and wash hands immediately after removing. [Additional mask information can be found here](#).

Business Specific Guidance Available

Together, in coordination with the City of St. Louis and the Economic Development Partnership, business operating guidelines for the entire St. Louis Region have been released and posted online at stlcorona.com. This includes but is not limited to protocols pertaining to business such as construction companies, restaurants, personal services and transportation. Individual businesses can ask specific questions about how the guidance applies to their business by emailing business-covid@stlouisco.com.



St. Louis County Department of Public Health COVID-19 Update May 11, 2020

Guidance for Children and Masks

As we navigate towards the reopening of businesses and other functions in St. Louis County, masks may be required and this does include children, especially in places where they may not be able to avoid staying 6 feet away from others. For example, if you must take them to the doctor, pharmacy, or grocery store. Children under the age of 2 years should **not** wear cloth face coverings.

However, under the following circumstances you may need to reconsider the use of cloth face coverings on a child:

- The face coverings are a possible choking or strangulation hazards to your child.
- Wearing the cloth face covering causes your child to touch their face more frequently than not wearing it.

Staying home and physical distancing is still the best way to protect your family from COVID-19. Especially for younger children who may not understand why they can't run up toward other people or touch things they shouldn't, it's best to keep them home. Children who are sick (fever, cough, congestion, runny nose, diarrhea, or vomiting) should not leave home.



St. Louis County Department of Public Health COVID-19 Update May 8, 2020

Guidance for Businesses

St. Louis County Department of Public Health (DPH) and the St. Louis County Executive's Office have announced guidance for businesses reopening. The document is attached.

Businesses Preparing to Reopen – Customer Perspective

When formulating proactive plans to reopen, the owners/operators of small businesses should consider different perspectives. A second viewpoint should focus on the health and well-being of their customers and guests.

Small businesses have many things to consider, but among them should be:

- Engineering controls through the form of physical barriers or design elements ensuring six feet of distance between employees and customers.
- Installation of clear markings/directions for social distancing at areas prone to lines or congregation.
- Limits on the number of customers, employees, and others in the business at any one time.
- A schedule for cleaning/sanitizing in accordance with required protocols.
- The establishment of hours of operation, wherever possible, for high-risk individuals.
- A plan for treating common areas to restrict gatherings.
- Where hand sanitizer and Kleenex will be made available to all guests.
- Arrangement for contactless payment, pick-up and delivery options whenever feasible.



May 8, 2020

St. Louis County Department of Public Health

2019 Novel Coronavirus (“COVID-19”)

Business and Individual Guidelines for Social Distancing and Re-Opening

I. Background

The St. Louis County Department of Public Health (“DPH”) has been closely monitoring the global pandemic caused by a viral respiratory illness called COVID-19. Infections with COVID-19 have been reported around the world. The first confirmed instance of person-to-person spread of the virus in the United States was reported on January 30, 2020. The first confirmed instance of COVID-19 in St. Louis County was reported on March 7, 2020. A state of emergency was declared in St. Louis County on March 13, 2020, resulting in several executive orders and DPH orders, policies, and rules to implement those executive orders.

COVID-19 is considered an infectious, contagious, communicable, and dangerous disease for purposes of §§ 192.020-1, 192.139, & 192.300, RSMo., 19 CSR 20-20.020, and other state and local laws. The DPH’s director is the “local health authority” under 19 CSR 20-20.050(1) pursuant to 19 CSR 20-20.010(26), Section 4.130 of the Charter, and Section 600.010 SLCRO, and has been delegated the authority to act on St. Louis County’s behalf for the public health purposes described in § 192.300, RSMo.

The virus is easily transmitted, especially in group settings, and the disease can lead to significant illness, need for hospital care, and death, with those of older age and those with chronic medical conditions being most significantly impacted. To mitigate the harm to the citizens of the County from the pandemic, St. Louis County issued a Stay at Home Order on March 23, 2020, as further amended in subsequent orders, imposing limitations on individual and business activity to certain essential activities. Other jurisdictions in the St. Louis area and ultimately the State of Missouri joined in adopting similar stay at home orders.

The collective efforts of St. Louis County, surrounding jurisdictions and many regional partners to increase access to testing, educate the public, perform case investigations and monitoring, and focus on protection of the most vulnerable residents has reduced rates of transmission and hospitalizations; however, danger to the health and welfare of the community continues. As of the date of this Order, infection and hospitalization rates have not shown sustained decrease in all areas; testing availability, while improved, is still limited; there is not yet a known treatment or vaccination against the virus that causes COVID-19; the healthcare system remains susceptible to being overwhelmed; and it is unknown the level of immunity that exists among the residents of St. Louis County. As such, it is imperative that St. Louis County continue to provide restrictions on individual behaviors, businesses practices, and gatherings to protect the public.



While encouraging St. Louis County residents to continue to stay at home when possible and avoid situations that increase their risk of exposure to the virus, this Order eases restrictions on individuals and businesses, including allowing businesses to resume operating or continue operations, so long as they do so in alignment with this order and with the intent to protect employees and patrons.

Effective Monday, May 18, 2020, this Order adopts the Order of the Director of the Department of Health and Senior Services of the State of Missouri, dated April 27, 2020 in St. Louis County. Further, effective May 18, 2020, this Order replaces the “St. Louis County Department of Public Health 2019 Novel Coronavirus (“COVID-19”) Extension and Amendment of Stay at Home Order” dated April 20, 2020, rescinds the “St. Louis County Department of Public Health 2019 Novel Coronavirus (“COVID-19) Order Prohibiting Certain Intentional Gatherings” dated March 19, 2020, and rescinds the “St. Louis County Department of Public Health 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Order Restricting the Operations of Restaurant and Bars Order” dated March 24, 2020. This Order is effective until rescinded or modified by the Director of the Department of Public Health. All other public health orders remain in effect.

Violating a public health order designed to “prevent the entrance of infectious, contagious, communicable or dangerous diseases” into St. Louis County is punishable as a misdemeanor pursuant to § 192.300, RSMo.

II. Purpose

The intent of this order is to provide standards for individual conduct while in public and for business operations with the goal to decrease transmission of COVID-19. This Order sets forth guidelines for individuals when they are in public. Individuals are encouraged to remain in their places of residence to the maximum extent feasible to reduce their own risks and risks to others of being exposed to and transmitting COVID-19. This Order also set the standards for open businesses to minimize the continued health risks associated with COVID-19 in St. Louis County.

III. Policy

1. The Order by the Missouri Director of the Department of Health and Senior Services dated April 27, 2020 and effective May 4, 2020 is hereby adopted and incorporated herein, and all restrictions therein will be enforced under this Order.
2. All Gatherings pose an increased risk of transmission and should be voluntarily avoided whenever possible. A Business engaging in direct service delivery with members of the public as described in paragraph 5 of this Policy will not be considered a Gathering. When a Gathering does take place and the provisions of paragraph 5 of this Policy do not apply, the Gathering must abide with the following precautions:
 - a. A person or business shall not organize or attend an intentional Gathering of more than 10 people in a single space or room, indoors or outdoors;
 - b.



- c. All Gatherings shall comply with Social Distancing Requirements and are encouraged to comply with Face Covering recommendations.
3. Except when wearing a Face Covering would compromise the health of an individual, Face Coverings are recommended to be worn by all residents over the age of two (2) in the following areas:
 - a. All public closed spaces;
 - b. Outside when six (6) feet of distance cannot be maintained from other non-household members; and
 - c. On any form of Public Transit.
4. All Businesses shall comply with Social Distancing Requirements and Disinfection Processes, and must take the following additional precautions:
 - a. All Businesses shall require frequent Disinfection Processes of all high touch surfaces and any other areas that may be frequently touched by customers, employees, volunteers or any other individuals.
 - b. All Businesses shall provide reasonable breaks for employees and volunteers to wash hands.
 - c. All Businesses shall train employees about procedures related to Disinfection Processes and Social Distancing Requirements.
 - d. All Businesses shall provide employees and volunteers working in the Businesses' facility with Face Coverings or supplies to make Face Coverings.
 - e. All Businesses shall require employees or volunteers to wear Face Coverings while at work, unless such employee or volunteer is working alone in an enclosed area or has a medical reason not to wear a Face Covering.
 - f. All Businesses shall conduct daily screening of employees and volunteers who work in their facilities for symptoms of COVID-19.
 - g. All Businesses shall encourage employees or volunteers to quarantine or isolate if they have or are believed to have COVID-19 or if they have come into contact with individual(s) with COVID-19.
5. Unless otherwise closed as set forth in Paragraph 7 of Section III, all Businesses that engage in direct interactions with members of the public, and primarily provide goods for sale, food or drink for consumption, personal services requiring sustained in-person contact, or religious or spiritual services, must:
 - a. Limit the number of individuals in any particular location to 25 (twenty-five) percent or less of the entity's authorized fire or building code occupancy in facilities with square footage of less than ten thousand square feet (10,000 ft²); or ten (10) percent or less of the entity's authorized fire or



- b. building code occupancy in facilities with square footage of ten thousand square feet (10,000 ft²) or more;
 - c. Install physical barriers between customers and employees where possible or otherwise ensure six (6) feet of distance between customers and employees, particularly in check-out lines, return-lines or any other place where there is prolonged contact between the customer and employee;
 - d. In all areas which are prone to lines or congregation, install clear markings with signage, tape, or other means that show six (6) feet of distance as the appropriate spacing between customers;
 - e. Provide signage inside and outside the facility outlining Social Distancing Requirements, limitations on crowd size, and procedures to limit crowd size;
 - f. Prohibit customers from bringing outside containers, including reusable bags or boxes, into the facility;
 - g. Establish hours of operation, wherever possible, for individuals at high-risk of experiencing adverse outcomes from COVID-19 as defined by the CDC;
 - h. Arrange for contactless payment, pick-up and delivery options whenever feasible and provide postings as to the availability of such services.
6. Businesses may deny entry to members of the public who refuse to wear Face Coverings for non-medical reasons. A business shall not require the individual to produce medical documentation verifying a medical condition or ask about the nature of a medical condition. If the business is providing medication, medical supplies or food the business should provide alternate methods of pick up or delivery of such goods.
7. Due to the very high risk of transmission of COVID-19 related to certain types of congregation common to such facilities, the following businesses and venues are prohibited from operating or re-opening except with respect to the minimum necessary activities to maintain the value of a business's inventory, provide security, process payroll or employee benefits, or to facilitate employees of the business being able to continue to work remotely: entertainment, conference and sporting venues (regardless of square footage); gyms and fitness centers; banquet rooms; bars and businesses that primarily serve alcohol and do not serve full meals are limited to curbside and pickup service; indoor and outdoor pools except those located at an individual's residence; sporting events; sports courts; and playgrounds. This paragraph does not prohibit authorized professional sport team training sessions and practices provided that no members of the public attend these activities in person for entertainment purposes.

IV. Definitions

For purposes of this order, these terms, regardless of whether capitalized, are defined as follows:

1. "Business" or "businesses" means any for-profit companies, non-profit organizations, benevolent associations, limited liability companies, or partnerships, regardless of legal organization, form, entity, tax-treatment, or structure;
2. "CDC" means the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention of the United States Department of Health and Human Services;



3. "County" means St. Louis County, Missouri;
4. "Disinfection Processes" means the process of destroying pathogenic microorganisms, and in the case of decreasing spread of COVID-19 includes:
 - a. Providing hand washing or sanitizing opportunities for the public where possible;
 - b. Requiring frequent sanitation of high touch areas with products thought to destroy COVID-19. High touch areas include but are not limited to:
 - i. Handrails;
 - ii. Elevator buttons;
 - iii. Door handles;
 - iv. Check-out areas, including keypads, credit card machines and other such systems;
 - v. Carts and baskets;
 - vi. Restrooms; and
 - vii. Shared computers or kiosks.
5. "Face Coverings" for the purpose of this order, means a device, usually made of cloth, that covers the nose and mouth. Consistent with current CDC guidelines, face coverings prevent those who may have COVID-19 from spreading it to others. Cloth face coverings are recommended for the general public over surgical or N95 respirators which should be reserved for medical professionals and first responders. Nothing in this Order should prevent workers or customers from wearing a surgical-grade mask or other more protective face covering if the individual is already in possession of such equipment, or if the business otherwise provides their workers with such equipment due to the nature of the work involved.
6. "Gathering" or "gatherings" means people coming together as a group, whether formal or informal, whether public or private and whether indoor or outdoor. For the purposes of this definition, Gatherings do not include the Gatherings that may occur at businesses that are not defined in Paragraph 5 of Section III.
7. "Public Transit" means businesses that provide transportation services, including but not limited to buses, light rail, rail, airlines, taxis, transportation network providers, livery services, vehicle rental services, ride shares and other private transportation providers.
8. "Social Distancing Requirements" means, to the extent possible, maintaining at least six-foot social distancing from other individuals; washing hands with soap and water for at least twenty seconds as frequently as possible or using hand sanitizer with more than sixty percent alcohol; covering coughs or sneezes with something other than hands; regularly cleaning high-touch surfaces; not shaking hands; and behaviors as otherwise defined by order.



V. Application and Enforcement

1. Application with Other Laws: To the extent not otherwise explicitly modified or rescinded in this Order, any order of the Director of the Department of Public Health or any Executive Order remains in effect
2. and this Order shall not supplant, supersede, replace, rescind, amend, or modify any other law, ordinance, rule, regulation, or permit condition or requirement.
3. In addition to other civil and criminal penalties that may be sought, DPH may enforce this Order. In accordance with 19 CSR 20-20.040 DPH has the authority to establish appropriate control measures to prevent or control the spread of an infectious disease, including isolation, quarantine, disinfection, and closure of establishments in the interest of public health. , In accordance with 19 CSR 20-20.040, DPH has the authority to deem a business, businesses comprising a certain industry, geographic areas or the County as a whole to be unsafe and order such business, businesses comprising a certain industry, or businesses in a geographic area, to cease operations or to close to prevent additional transmission. If DPH closes a business in accordance with such authority, that business will have the opportunity to be heard by the Director of DPH. In exercising its authority under 19 CSR 20-20.040, DPH will proceed with closures and enforcement actions including:
 1. At the individual level, including isolation and quarantine of cases, family members and close contacts;
 2. At the business level by location of transmission;
 3. At the industry/sector level if businesses in that industry are found to be particularly associated with transmission;
 4. By geographic area or location with significant outbreaks or clusters of cases;
 5. Through closure at the County level.
4. This Order replaces the “St. Louis County Department of Public Health 2019 Novel Coronavirus (“COVID-19”) Extension and Amendment of Stay at Home Order” dated April 20, 2020, rescinds the “St. Louis County Department of Public Health 2019 Novel Coronavirus (“COVID-19) Order Prohibiting Certain Intentional Gatherings” dated March 19, 2020, and rescinds the “St. Louis County Department of Public Health 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Order Restricting the Operations of Restaurant and Bars Order” dated March 24, 2020.

VI. Effective Date

This Order is signed May 8, 2020, shall become effective on May 18, 2020, and shall remain effective until rescinded or amended, which shall occur at the earliest possible date as is appropriate based upon data regarding COVID-19 transmission rates and the protection of public health.



VII. Savings Clause

If any provision of this Order or its application to any person or circumstance is held to be invalid, then the remainder of the Order, including the application of such part or provision to other persons or circumstances, shall not be affected and shall continue in full force and effect. To this end, the provisions of this Order are severable.

VIII. Authorization

This Order is authorized pursuant to Executive Orders 10 through 18, which are incorporated herein by reference, and to Missouri and St. Louis County law, including the Missouri Constitution, §§ 192.006, 192.200 and 192.300, RSMo., Chapter 44 RSMo., 19 CSR 20-20.040 and 19 CSR 20-20.050 of the Rules of the Department of Health and Senior Services, the St. Louis County Charter and the St. Louis County Revised Ordinances.



St. Louis County Department of Public Health COVID-19 Update May 7, 2020

Businesses Preparing to Reopen – Employee Perspective

When formulating proactive plans to reopen, the owners/operators of small businesses should consider different perspectives. One viewpoint should focus on the health and well-being of their employees and other internal stakeholders/vendors. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has already created guidance on preparing workplaces for COVID-19. That document includes steps all employers can take to reduce workers' risk of exposure, identifies levels of risk associated with different professions, work-related travel, and other resources available. It can be found [here](#).

Small businesses have many things to consider, but among them should be:

- Communications to employees returning to work.
- How employees will be screened prior to their shifts.
- A schedule for cleaning/sanitizing in accordance with required protocols.
- Based on capacity limitations, the number of personnel who can be present in one area at any one time.
- A plan for treating common areas to restrict gatherings.
- Where hand sanitizer and Kleenex will be made available to all employees.
- Develop a plan to insure that deliveries of supplies/merchandise are to be safely handled.

Specific guidance from St. Louis County Department of Public Health and the County Executive's Office is being created and should be available this week. Dr. Sam Page indicated this morning that the re-opening will be "slow, deliberate, and measured."



St. Louis County Department of Public Health COVID-19 Update May 6, 2020

Businesses Preparing to Reopen

Small business owners should be preparing to reopen by developing a proactive plan for controlling their environment. Writing policies and procedures to account for these activities will help to speed the reopening process. The spread of COVID-19 is manageable and preventable, but it takes thoughtful consideration. Much of which can be developed now before the opening of business.

Fortunately, a template already exists in reviewing the operational procedures of essential businesses which have remained open during the pandemic. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has authored Reopening Guidance for Cleaning and Disinfecting Public Spaces, Workplaces, Businesses, Schools, and Homes, which can be found [here](#). In addition, the Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry has also disseminated recommendations, which are available [here](#).

Specific guidance from St. Louis County Department of Public Health and the County Executive's Office is being created and should be available this week. Dr. Sam Page indicated this morning that the re-opening will be "slow, deliberate, and measured."

Face Mask Requirement on Metro Transit

Starting on Monday, May 11, Metro Transit will take another important step to help protect transit riders and employees from the spread of COVID-19 by requiring all passengers to wear face masks at all times when riding on MetroBus, MetroLink or Metro Call-A-Ride vehicles. You will not be permitted to board a MetroBus vehicle, MetroLink train or Metro Call-A-Ride van if you are not wearing a face covering.

Face coverings need to fit over both the nose and mouth, and non-medical masks, scarves, handkerchiefs, bandanas and other types of cloth coverings are permitted. This measure does not apply to children ages 2 and under, or customers who have trouble breathing, are incapacitated or are unable to remove the cover without assistance. The requirement to wear face coverings on public transit follows recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and a requirement issued by the State of Illinois asking people to wear a face covering over their noses and mouths when in a public environment where social distancing is not always possible.



St. Louis County Department of Public Health COVID-19 Update May 5, 2020

COVID-19 and Dental Settings

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) identifies dental settings as having unique characteristics that warrant additional infection control considerations and places dental health care providers in the “very high exposure risk” category. The practice of dentistry as involving the use of instruments that create a visible spray that contains large particle droplets of water, saliva, blood, microorganisms, and other debris. This spatter travels only a short distance and lands on the floor, nearby operatory surfaces, dental health care professionals, or the patient. The spray also might contain certain aerosols. While surgical masks offer some protection, they do not guarantee safety against inhalation of airborne infectious agents. Additional study and evaluation is needed to assess the risk of transmission during dental practice or to determine whether dental health care professionals are adequately protected when providing dental treatment using Standard Precautions.

Here are some recommendations from the CDC:

- Postpone elective procedures, surgeries, and non-urgent dental visits.
- Stay at home if you are sick.
- Evaluate the necessary course of dental treatment by phone before responding to the office.
- Dental health professionals should utilize the appropriate levels of PPE.
- Clean and disinfect rooms promptly.

What constitutes a dental emergency? According to the American Dental Association (ADA), the following:

- Uncontrolled bleeding
- Trauma involving the facial bones, potentially compromising the patient’s airway
- Severe pain from inflammation
- Treatment prior to or following a procedure or surgery
- Final crown/bridge cementations if temporary restoration is compromised
- Gum infection with pain or swelling
- Broken or knocked out tooth
- Denture adjustment for people receiving radiation or other cancer treatment
- Snipping or adjusting wire of braces that hurts your cheeks or gums
- Biopsy of abnormal tissue

Dental health care professionals should regularly consult with their state dental boards or other regulating agencies for requirements specific to their jurisdictions.



Mental Health During a Pandemic

As a reminder, everyone reacts differently to stressful situations. Fear and anxiety caused by this pandemic can be overwhelming and cause strong emotions in adults and children. How someone responds to the outbreak can depend on their background, the things that make them different from other people, and the community they live in. If someone is feeling overwhelmed with emotions like sadness, depression, or anxiety, or feel like they might want to harm themselves or others, contact one of the following:

- Call 911
- Contact Behavioral Health Response (BHR): [314 469-6644](tel:3144696644) (immediate access to a counselor or social worker, free of charge)
- Mid-Missouri Crisis Line: Text "HAND" to 839863
- Disaster Distress Help Line: [1-800-985-5990](tel:18009855990), or text "TalkWithUs" to 66746
- National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: [1-800-273-TALK \(8225\)](tel:18002732825) or visit [National Suicide Prevention Lifeline](https://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org)

Contact Information

The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services hotline can be reached at [\(877\) 435-8411](tel:8774358411).

St. Louis County has created a website dedicated to the dissemination of information relating to COVID-19, stlcorona.com. Please visit that website or those belonging to the Center for Disease Control (CDC) or the World Health Organization (WHO) for the most current and reputable information.

Other Helpful Resources

COVID-19 Information and Resources

COVID-19 Fact Sheets

COVID-19 Safety and Health Standards, Control & Prevention (OSHA)

Guidance on Preparing Workplaces for COVID-19 (OSHA)

Protecting Workers During a Pandemic Factsheet (OSHA)

Pandemic Preparedness in the Workplace and the Americans with Disabilities Act (EEOC)

For additional resources please visit our website at <https://www.craneagency.com/coronavirus-preparedness-resources/>.