

**Order of the Columbia/Boone County  
Public Health and Human Services Director  
Boone County Order No. 2020-15C**

**Notice and Issuance of Rules and Regulations regarding Gatherings in  
Boone County – Renewal of Modified Reopening Plan – Phase 2, Step 3**

**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 considered an infectious, highly contagious communicable and dangerous disease and on March 11, 2020 was declared by the World Health Organization to be a pandemic.
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 June 16, 2020, in the United States the SARS-CoV-2 virus has been responsible for over 2.1 million cases of COVID-19 resulting in over 116,000 deaths.
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. <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.

10. Case investigation and contact tracing conducted by the local health department is an integral part of a multipronged approach to contain the spread of the virus.

11. Ensuring adequate healthcare resources exist within the community to promptly identify, isolate, and care for individuals exposed to COVID-19 and respond to any anticipated surge in required healthcare services due to COVID-19 while maintaining adequate care for other patients is critical to the health, safety, and well-being of the public.

12. The Health Director, as the Local Health Authority, has issued prior Orders that have resulted in a decline of the number of COVID-19 cases in Boone County and on May 4, 2020 began a slow reopening of the local economy with Order 2020-05C, which generally provided for 25% occupancy for businesses while continuing to limit intentional gatherings to 10 persons and requiring social distancing between employees at all establishments.

13. On May 26, 2020 Phase 2 Step 2 of the reopening plan was implemented through Order 2020-06C which generally authorized 50 % occupancy of businesses and increased the size of intentional gatherings to 50 persons.

14. On June 23, 2020 Phase 2 Step 3 of the reopening plan went into effect under Order 2020-07C generally authorizing most businesses to reopen with implementation of social distancing requirements and limiting large gatherings to 100 persons with certain exceptions allowed if the business could provide an operational plan to ensure public safety.

15. The number of identified active COVID-19 cases in Boone County increased from 21 active cases on May 26, 2020 to 231 active cases on July 8, 2020 causing the Director to extend Phase 2 Step 3 of the reopening plan pursuant to Order 2020-08C.

16. The number of active cases in Boone County continues to increase with the seven (7) day rolling new case rate for the period of July 29, 2020 through August 4, 2020 at 106 cases per 100,000.

17. The University of Missouri student population began its on campus move-in on August 17, 2020 with in-person classwork resuming on August 24, 2020.

Stephens College began in-person classes on August 25, 2020, with residential students returning to campus for move-in and orientation between August 16-24, 2020. Columbia College will begin its move-in and orientation on August 28-30, 2020 with in-person classes beginning on August 31, 2020. The number of students resuming higher education coursework in the City of Columbia exceeds 30,000.

18. Since August 17, 2020 Boone County has experienced a steady increase in COVID-19 daily cases with the new daily cases reported on August 27, 2020 as of 4:00 pm being 83\_ with the total number of active cases being 502. The average number of active cases in the 18- 22 age bracket increased over 220% in the seven days ending on August 27, 2020 compared to the previous seven (7) day period. The number of hospitalizations within Boone County increased from 27 on August 17, 2020 to 43 on August 27, 2020.

19. Since implementation of Order 2020-11, the number of new daily cases has increased, with the five day rolling average increasing from 61 on September 18, 2020 to 132 on November 11, 2020. Since September 25, 2020 there has been an upward trend in hospitalizations with 60 Boone County individuals hospitalized during the month of October. As of November 11, 2020 there were 149 patients with COVID-19 hospitalized in Boone County. Forty-seven of the 149 patients hospitalized on November 11 were in the Intensive Care Unit and 20 were on ventilators. The increased hospitalizations indicate increased severity of disease and place a strain on the healthcare resources and staffing in Boone County.

20. As of November 11, 2020 there were 3,647 cases of the 7,763 total number of COVID-19 cases in Boone County attributable to persons age 18 to age 27 indicating a need to continue to place controls on the interaction of young adults in locations where the spread of the disease through community contact has a greater probability.

21. At this time the Director finds that due to an increase in the number of new daily cases and increasing hospitalizations it is necessary to continue the current order without modification for an additional three weeks to ensure the capacity of local resources is adequate to meet the increased need.

### **Legal Basis of Rules and Regulations**

22. 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.

23. 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.

24. 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 County and hereby extend the regulations previously entered as Order 2020-11C. The rules and regulations set forth in Order 2020-11C shall remain in full force and effect as if fully set forth herein and will expire on December 8, 2020 at 11:59 p.m. unless extended, rescinded or modified prior to such expiration.

**So Ordered.**



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

11.13.2020  
Date