

Texas County Health Department Provides Information on Missouri's Stay At Home Order

Governor Parson announced Friday night a Statewide Stay At Home order would go into effect at 12:01 a.m. April 6th, 2020 and continue through 11:59 p.m. April 24th, 2020 to protect public health and prevent the further spread of COVID-19.

It is important that everyone follow the local public health guidance and the Governor's order to protect our community. The more that people reduce their public contact, the sooner Covid-19 will be contained and the sooner this order will expire.

What the order means for Texas County citizens is you should stay at home unless it is necessary for:

- Accessing Food
- Prescriptions
- Healthcare
- Engaging in outdoor activity
- Attending your place of worship provided that limitations for social gatherings and social distancing are adhered to.

Travel to and from work is allowed as set forth in the essential worker function guidelines. Check with your employer if you have questions regarding your work functions.

Retail sales establishments will apply social distancing practices by limiting the of number of people in the store at any given time. You may see changes in how the retail stores operate during this time.

The stay at home order states that no social gatherings, public or private, should include more than 10 people in a single space at the same time. This includes any planned as well as spontaneous gatherings.

Social distancing requirements include maintaining six feet of space between individuals. This provision does not apply to family members or individuals performing essential worker functions.

The order mandates schools remain closed through the end of the order. The order does not prohibit the schools from continuing daycare and food distribution plans to students by delivery or pickup.

Food and drink purchases from restaurants, bars, and food courts is limited to the use of drive through, pickup, or delivery options.

Visiting nursing homes, long term care establishments, and retirement homes is prohibited unless you are providing critical care services.

The order does not prohibit or restrict the lawful possession, transfer, sale, transportation, storage, display, or use of firearms or ammunition however social distancing applications must be used for sporting activities.

State office buildings are closed however, essential state functions will continue.

In summary, the order does not keep people from accessing important essential services such as grocery stores, gas stations, banks, or engaging in outdoor recreations, but it does require people to stay home to protect themselves and the community if they do not need to be going out.

Our community has already made a lot of voluntary sacrifices to reduce the transmission of COVID-19 and protect our vulnerable population. The statewide order that was enacted, reinforces the need to continue these measures for reducing the impact of Covid-19.

If you have additional questions about the Missouri's Statewide Stay at Home Order, please contact the health department at 417-967-4131.