



CITY TO BEGIN THE REOPENING PROCESS

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**(April 30, 2020)
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

City leaders, in an effort to find a balance between the safety and health of the community as well as the financial health of the economy, took steps today to allow businesses to begin reopening while ensuring measures will be taken to protect the health and safety of their customers, employees and the community.

At a work session held earlier today, the City Council made the decision to begin the process of reopening businesses following guidelines established in the Fourth Amended Declaration and Order while applying the order issued by the State of Missouri and the guidance provided in the “Guidelines for Opening Up America Again” that have been issued by the President.

While the community is encouraged to adapt to the new normal we are all facing as we go through this process of reopening, it is still very important to remember to practice social distancing along with proper handwashing and sanitizing of commonly used surfaces. COVID-19 is still in the community and we still need to work to reduce the spread of the virus. Face coverings are encouraged while you are out. Those who may be at a higher risk should continue to exercise greater caution and consider that you are safer at home unless it is necessary to be out.

This is a great time to remember to support local business while still taking precautions to protect your family and yourself. Let’s take care of one another as we work to find our new normal. We are all in this together.

The guidelines for businesses to follow are described below. The Declaration and Order can be found on the city’s website at stjoemo.org, along with the state and federal guidance documents.

Generally, **all businesses** must comply with the following:

- Restrict access to common areas.
- Physically space employees, construct barriers between employees, or require employees to wear protective equipment (e.g. face coverings).
- Perform temperature checks when groups of 10 or more employees gather in common spaces.
- Require regular handwashing and disinfection of frequently touched surfaces.
- Routinely disinfect common areas and high-traffic areas.
- Limit employees’ business-related travel and follow CDC travel guidelines.

- Continuously monitor for COVID-19 symptoms (fever, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, chills, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell, or any other relevant symptoms per medical provider judgement) and require employees exhibiting symptoms to leave the premises.
- Contact the City of St. Joseph Health Department immediately upon learning of exposure to someone with a confirmed COVID-19 diagnosis.
- Display informational postings issued by the city of St. Joseph.
- Physically space employees in accordance with the requirements of the State order.

Businesses that **allow customers to enter** must comply with the following additional requirements:

- Station sanitization products at entryways.
- Post signage and mark floors to designate distances of at least six feet in areas where lines form.
- Prohibit customers from congregating or waiting inside or outside the business.
- Space stationary customers at least six feet apart at all times.
- Construct barriers between customers and employee workstations to limit exposure.
- Restrict person-to-person contact.

In addition to the requirements stated above, certain businesses at which virus exposure is more likely to occur must adhere to additional health and safety measures.

Retail businesses must also limit occupancy to 25% of the facility's authorized fire or building code occupancy for a facility with less than 5,000 square feet or 10% of the facility's authorized fire or building code occupancy for a facility 5,000 square feet or more.

Businesses serving prepared foods and drinks may continue to serve customers through drive-through, pickup, or delivery service. Restaurants may also return to providing dine-in service if the business requires advanced reservations or provides immediate seating and prohibits customers from congregating or waiting to be seated. Restaurants must also record the name and phone number for a member of every party served and the dates and times during which they were in the business. That information must be provided to the City's Health Department when necessary to trace COVID-19 contacts. Dine-in restaurants must also space tables at least six feet apart, prohibit use of communal seating areas to unconnected parties, and limit seating to ten people at a single table. Finally, reusable condiment containers such as salt shakers or ketchup bottles and reusable menus may not be used unless they are sanitized between uses.

Bars and taverns will continue to be prohibited from offering on-site service, but may serve customers via drive-through, pickup, or delivery, provided they do not accept face-to-face orders inside the business, they require six feet distance between people picking up prepared foods and drinks inside the establishment, and they require people to wait outside the establishment during the preparation of prepared food and drink orders.

Theaters, private clubs, bowling alleys, and other recreational venues must sanitize surfaces between uses by customers. This sanitation would include sanitizing bowling balls, golf carts, arcade games, and other instruments of the activities offered. They must also space customers who are not part of the same party at least six feet apart.

Fitness centers may reopen provided they arrange cardiovascular equipment to prevent use within six feet of other equipment and ensure all equipment and personal storage areas are sanitized between uses.

Salons, tattoo parlors, and others providing services that require person-to-person contact may continue operations provided they require advanced appointments and prohibit customers from congregating or waiting to be served. They must also space employees providing services by at least six feet or place barriers between workstations. All equipment must be sanitized between uses on

separate customers. Employees must wear face coverings and customers must wear face coverings when face coverings will not interfere with the service provided. The business must record the name and phone number of all customers and the dates and times during which they were in the business. That information must be provided to the City's Health Department when necessary to trace COVID-19 contacts.

City offices will continue to issue permits and conduct business by appointment until May 11, 2020, at which time city offices will likely be opened to the public with protective measures in place.

City playgrounds will remain closed to the public, but **recreational facilities** will open with additional restrictions to ensure social distancing and compliance with Fourth Amended Declaration and Order.

The Fourth Amended Declaration and Order adopts the State Order requirement for people to maintain six feet of space between them unless they are family members or their job duties require them to be within six feet of other people. It also requires that individuals attending social events with more than ten people maximize physical distance from others.

The Fourth Amended Declaration and Order will continue to be enforced in the same manner that previous Declarations and Orders have been enforced. It will be continually evaluated through May 31, 2020, at which time it may expire unless it is amended, extended, or withdrawn.

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