



Pettis County

HEALTH CENTER

PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY RULE

WHEREAS, the novel coronavirus diseases (COVID-19) is considered an infectious, highly contagious communicable and dangerous disease, declared on March 11, 2020 to be a worldwide pandemic by the World Health Organization; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States, Donald J. Trump declared the outbreak of COVID-19 in the United States constitutes a national emergency and the Governor of the State of Missouri declared a state emergency within the State of Missouri; and

WHEREAS, as of July 27, 2020, the rate of cases in Pettis County is doubling at an increasing rate and there have been hospitalizations and deaths of county residents; and

WHEREAS, it is the duty of the local health authority on receiving a report of a disease which is infectious, contagious, communicable, or dangerous in its nature as included in 19 CSR 20-20.020 to, among other things, establish appropriate control measures which may include the creation and enforcement of adequate orders to prevent the spread of the disease and other measures considered by the local health authority as appropriate disease control measures, pursuant to 19 CSR 20-20.040; and

WHEREAS, the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services requires a sustained 14 day decline in cases before long term care facilities and other congregate care facilities can move to allow more visitation for residents; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Diseases Control and Prevention (CDC) continues to study the spread and effects of COVID-19 across the United States and has determined that a significant portion of individuals with coronavirus lack symptoms and that even those who eventually develop symptoms can transmit the virus to other before showing symptoms, which means the virus can spread between people interacting in close proximity (for example speaking, coughing, or sneezing), even if those people are not exhibiting symptoms; and

WHEREAS, the CDC and other federal officials strongly support wearing cloth face coverings in public setting both indoors and outdoors, where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain; and

WHEREAS, there are currently no pharmaceutical interventions available to slow the spread of coronavirus and the resulting diseases, COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the non-pharmaceutical interventions available, supported by an increasing body of scientific knowledge, strongly support the wearing of face coverings by all individuals in public spaces, with limited exceptions, together with remaining 6 feet apart from non-household members, good hand washing, avoiding crowds and staying home when ill as the best way to reduce disease transmission; and

WHEREAS, the Pettis County Health Center Board of Trustees may make and promulgate rules or regulations as will tend to enhance the public health and prevent the entrance of infectious, contagious, communicable or dangerous diseases into Pettis County, pursuant to 192.300, Revised Statutes of Missouri.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED BY THE PETTIS COUNTY HEALTH OFFICER AND RULED BY THE PETTIS COUNTY HEALTH CENTER BOARD OF TRUSTEES AS FOLLOWS:

1. When in a place of public accommodation or public indoor space (including but not limited to workplace, business, hotel, restaurant, place of worship, gym, childcare facility or public facility, such as a community center or library), individuals are required to wear a face covering that covers the nose and mouth simultaneously unless they can absolutely maintain a distance of six feet.

a. Face coverings should be positioned carefully over the mouth and nose and should not be touched or readjusted until such time as the face covering is removed. Hand hygiene is encouraged before taking face coverings off and prior to re-masking.

b. Face coverings are not required inside a solitary, enclosed work space such as an office.

c. Face coverings may be removed in restaurants and bars when individuals are actively eating or drinking, but must be worn at all times otherwise.

d. Face coverings are not required when individuals (including but not limited to pastors of places of worship, key note speakers, and instructors), are speaking to a group, but only when those individuals can absolutely guarantee that they will be able to maintain social distancing of at least 6 feet apart from all others during presentation.

e. An owner, manager, operator, or employee of an area regulated by this Rule may refuse service to any individual who refuses to wear a face covering in compliance with this Rule, however, an owner, manager, operator, or employee of an area regulated by this Rule shall neither require an individual to produce medical documentation verifying a medical condition or disability, nor ask about the nature of a medical disability.

2. When in a public outdoor space or when using public transportation, taxis, or ride-sharing services, individuals are required to wear a face covering that covers the nose and mouth simultaneously.

a. A public outdoor space includes, but is not limited, to all outdoor public gathering places such as bus stops, sidewalks, parks, playgrounds, farmers' markets, and restaurant/bar patio seating areas.

b. Face coverings are not required in public outdoor spaces (i) when individuals are driving alone or with others they live with; or (ii) when individuals are exercising alone or with others they live with.

c. Face coverings are not required in public outdoor spaces when individuals can absolutely guarantee that they will be able to maintain social distancing of at least 6 feet apart from all others.

d. Face coverings are not required when actively engaged in a sporting activity, but face coverings are required when players are seated on the bench, listening to coaches, or engaged in other activities that do not permit maintaining a 6 feet distance between participants. Coaches are required to wear a face mask.

3. The following individuals are exempt from the requirement to wear a face covering:

a. Those who are deaf or hard of hearing;

b. Children younger than 5 years old; and

I. Children younger than 2 years of age should never wear face coverings due to the risk of suffocation.

II. Children who are 2, 3, and 4 years of age, with the assistance and close supervision of an adult, are strongly recommended to wear a face covering at all times in settings where it is likely that a distance of at least 6 feet cannot be maintained for non-household members and where the vulnerable population may be present (i.e. grocery stores and pharmacies).

III. Adjustments to the age requirements may be made based upon updated research indicating that younger children are not common sources of transmission.

c. Individuals with a medical condition, mental health condition, or disability that prevents them from wearing a face covering. This includes, but is not limited to, individuals with a medical condition for whom wearing a face covering could obstruct breathing or who are unconscious, incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove a face covering without assistance.

For purposes of this Rule, a face covering means a covering that covers the nose and mouth. It can be:

- a. A sewn mask secured with ties or straps around the head or behind the ears;
- b. Multiple layers of fabric tied around the head;
- c. Made from a variety of materials such as fleece, cotton, or linen;
- d. Factory made or made from household items;

A face covering also includes a mask or covering that provides a higher level of protection than a cloth face covering, such as an N95 mask or surgical mask, although it is generally encouraged to use cloth face coverings to preserve access to these higher grade face coverings for health care providers and first responders, who are assisting individuals during this virus crisis. Individuals who are medically unable to wear a face covering may wear a full face shield covering the mouth, nose and eyes as an alternative to a face covering.

4. An owner, manager, or operator of any area regulated by this Rule shall clearly and conspicuously post the requirements of this Rule, including the requirement that face coverings are required for entry and must continuously be worn while present, subject to the exemptions and provisions stated herein.

Enforcement

The Pettis County Health Center Board of Trustees has full power and authority to initiate the prosecution of a violation of action under 192.300, Revised Statutes of Missouri. In addition, the requirements stated herein may be enforced by the County Health Officer.

No Conflict with State Order

This Rule shall neither be construed, nor operate to conflict with any applicable order issued by the Missouri Governor and/or Director of the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services.

Severability

If any provision of this Rule or its application to any individual or circumstance is held to be invalid, the remainder of the Rule, 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 Rule are severable.

Publication

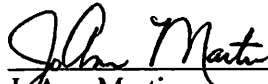
Pursuant to 192.300, Revised Statutes of Missouri, a copy of this Rule shall be printed and made available for distribution to the public in the office of the Pettis County Clerk and it shall be published in the Sedalia Democrat newspaper in three successive weeks not later than 30 days after entry.

Concurrence by Other Elected Boards

The concurrence of the City Council of the City of Sedalia, City Councils of smaller communities, the Pettis County Commission and the Board of Trustees of the Bothwell Regional Health Center is requested to emphasize the importance of this Rule in protecting the health of residents in and visitors to Pettis County.

This Rule becomes effective at 12:00 a.m., Friday, August 7th and remains in effect until rescinded by the County Health Officer and the Board of Trustees of the Pettis County Health Center.

IT IS SO ORDERED THIS 5th DAY OF AUGUST, 2020



JoAnn Martin
County Health Officer
Administrator, Pettis County Health Center



Phyllis Sue Domann
Chair, Board of Trustees