



Lafayette County Health Department

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Web page: www.lafayettecountyhealth.org

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PUBLIC HEALTH ORDER

WHEREAS, the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) is considered to be 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, the state of Missouri, including Lafayette County, is experiencing the effects of the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic, with Lafayette County experiencing a 77% increase in the last 15 days ending November 13, 2020; and

WHEREAS, The Center for Disease Control (“CDC”) has determined that a significant portion (40%) of individuals with the coronavirus lack symptoms but can still transmit the virus to others (75% chance of transmission) and those who eventually develop symptoms can transmit the virus to others before showing symptoms; spreading the virus to other people by interacting in close proximity (for example, speaking, coughing, or sneezing); and

WHEREAS, the LCHD, in accordance with CDC guidelines, has continually recommended all persons 2 years of age and older wear a simple cloth face covering over the mouth and nose when in public settings and when around persons outside their household to slow the spread of the virus, and to keep individuals who unknowingly have the virus from transmitting it to others; and

WHEREAS, the Lafayette County Health Department (“LCHD”) is empowered to protect the health and lives of Lafayette County residents; and

WHEREAS, the Lafayette County Health Department wishes to employ means available under law to protect public health, life, safety and property to limit the development, contraction, and spread of COVID-19, pursuant to Chapter 192, RSMo; and

WHEREAS, on November 13, 2020, Lafayette County Health Department confirmed a total of 1181 cases of COVID-19 in Lafayette County, Missouri, 101 of which have been hospitalized, with Lafayette County’s largest per month case total of 276 new cases thus far in the month of November, immediate action is needed to minimize this increase;

Now therefore, be it ordered by the Lafayette County Public Health Officer and the Lafayette County Health Department Board of Trustees, as follows:

1. Effective at 12:01 AM on November 19, 2020, all persons in Lafayette County shall wear a face covering (mask) at all times when indoors in all public and private buildings and when outdoors, except for the exceptions listed in #6. (See Appendix A for definitions)
2. **When in a place of public accommodation or public indoor space, individuals are required to wear a face covering (mask).**
3. **When in a public outdoor space or when using public transportation, taxis, or ride-sharing services, individuals are required to wear a face covering (mask).**

4. Properties belonging to and under the jurisdiction of local public/private schools will fall under the school facilities current GENERAL COVID-19 policy, EXCEPT that all staff and students will wear face coverings in the classroom settings.
5. **How to wear:** 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 and after taking off face cover.
6. **Exceptions:**
 - a. Indoor spaces
 - i. Face coverings are not required inside a solitary, enclosed workspace such as an office
 - ii. Face coverings can be removed in restaurants and bars when individuals are actively eating or drinking, but must be worn at all other times
 - iii. Face coverings are not required when individuals are speaking to a group provided they will be able to maintain a minimum 6 feet social distancing from all others during presentation
 - iv. While obtaining services that require temporary removal of the face covering, such as a dental or medical examination
 - v. Private residences are exempt, but hallways, elevators, and other common areas in apartment buildings, condominiums, and other medium or high-density structures are NOT exempt. It is STRONGLY recommended to wear face coverings in private individual's indoor/outdoor spaces where non-household members are gathered and where social distancing cannot be observed
 - vi. Places of worship will be exempt **as long as a minimum of 6 feet social distancing can be maintained.** It is STRONGLY recommended to wear face coverings in places of worship if social distancing guidelines cannot be maintained. Places of worship are encouraged to establish policies which protect their diverse membership, including many from vulnerable populations.
 - vii. When in a business /commercial/ office setting and not within 6 feet of any other person, provided however, when moving from place to place within a business location, where the person cannot maintain social distancing guidelines, a face covering shall be worn
 - viii. While exercising indoors when able to maintain social distancing guidance
 - b. Outdoor spaces
 - i. While outdoors when able to maintain social distancing guidance
 - ii. While exercising outdoors when able to maintain social distancing guidance
 - iii. When engaging in sporting activity provided that adequate social distancing and face covering provisions are observed as is possible
 - iv. When engaged in outdoor labor /work during extreme heat provided that adequate social distancing and face covering provisions are observed as is possible
 - v. Face coverings are not required when individuals are driving alone or with household members; when individuals are exercising alone or with household members
 - c. Additional exceptions/guidance
 - i. When any party to a communication is hearing impaired and not wearing a face covering is essential to communication

- ii. Voting sites for the purpose of voting or administering an election are exempt but are encouraged to abide by appropriate public health measures including face covering, social distancing, personal hygiene and, sanitizing of shared surfaces
 - iii. When necessary to confirm the individual's identity
 - iv. When federal or state law prohibits wearing the face covering or requires the removal of the face covering
 - v. When requested by a law enforcement officer
 - vi. When requested by a medical provider, including emergency response personnel
 - vii. Students who participate in school sponsored activities (Sports, clubs), while participating in school activities, will fall under the school facility's current COVID-19 policy. Spectators and parents/guardians will continue to fall under this public health order
 - viii. Children younger than 5 years of age and
 1. Children younger than 2 years of age should NEVER wear face coverings due to risk of suffocation
 2. Children 2, 3, and 4 years of age provided they have 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 from non-household members
 - ix. Persons with a medical condition, mental health condition, or disability that prevents wearing a face covering. This includes, but is not limited to, persons 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
7. **Businesses** shall post signage in a place visible to those entering to remind customers of this requirement. Sample wording will be provided in digital format by the Lafayette County Health Department.
8. In compliance with Sections 192.300 and 192.320 RSMO, the Public Health Officer requests the county and local law enforcement assist in enforcement of this order. Violation of any provision of this order shall be considered a violation of section 192.320 RSMO which is a Class C misdemeanor.
9. This order shall not be construed nor operate to conflict with any applicable order issued by the Governor of the State of Missouri and/or the Director of the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services.
10. This order remains in effect until further notice.

Appendix A

11. Definitions

- a. Face covering- A device or mask that covers the nose and mouth simultaneously which can be:
 - i. Sewn or tied around the head or behind the ears
 - ii. Multiple layers of fabric
 - iii. Made from a variety of materials, such as fleece, cotton, or linen
 - iv. Factory or hand made

- v. An N95 mask, KN95 mask or surgical mask, although it is general encouraged to use cloth face coverings to preserve access to the higher grade face coverings for healthcare settings and first responders
- b. Social distancing- Maintaining a 6 feet or greater space between individuals
- c. Public indoor space—including but not limited to: school classrooms, workplaces, businesses, hotels, restaurants, grocery stores, childcare facilities, or public facilities such as a community centers or libraries
- d. Public outdoor space—including but not limited to: bus stops, sidewalks, parks, playgrounds, farmer markets, and restaurants/bars patio seating
- e. Household member—person/persons living under the same roof that are frequently in close contact
- f. Non-Household member—person/persons not living under the same roof that are not in frequent close contact
- g. Vulnerable populations—Elderly (age greater than 65) and persons with chronic disease states including but not limited to obesity, diabetes, COPD, heart disease, autoimmune disease etc.

IT SO ORDERED THIS 16th DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2020

Nancy Miller, Chair, Board of Trustees

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