

PROCLAMATION

Office of the County Executive

WHEREAS, on January 31, 2020, Secretary Alex Azar of the United States Department of Health and Human Services, declared a public health emergency to address the 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19); and

WHEREAS, on March 5, 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) Director General urged aggressive preparedness and activation of emergency plans to change the trajectory of this epidemic; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the WHO declared COVID-19 a global pandemic; and

WHEREAS, as of March 11, 2020, the United States Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has reported that there have been 938 cases of COVID-19 in the United States, including 29 deaths; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is contagious and can be fatal; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 virus can be spread between people who are in close proximity with one another due to contact with fluids released when an infected person coughs or sneezes; and

WHEREAS, a large gathering of persons, may accelerate the spread of infection in our community and pose a risk to the health of our community; and

WHEREAS, the elderly population and those with serious underlying health conditions are most at risk from COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the continued spread of COVID-19 constitutes a natural calamity and presents an imminent threat of widespread illness, which requires emergency action; and

WHEREAS, the proclamation of a state of emergency provides the County the ability to take measures to reduce the possibility of exposure to disease, control the risk, and promote the health and safety of Jackson County residents;

NOW THEREFORE, in accordance with the power vested in me by the Constitutional Home Rule Charter of Jackson County, Missouri and the laws of this state and county, I, Frank White, Jr., **DO HEREBY PROCLAIM:**

That a State of Emergency exists in the County of Jackson, Missouri, beginning at 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 12, 2020 and lasting until 11:59 p.m. on Wednesday, April 1, 2020, due to the public health threat caused by the spread of COVID-19.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED:

Section 1. For purposes of this Order, the term "Large Group Event" means any gathering of 1,000 or more people for any business, professional, social, cultural, entertainment, or other special event where people are not separated by physical space of at least four feet (which is slightly longer than an average arm's length). Large Group Event

Section 2. That due to unique characteristics and risks associated with transmission dynamics, the likely spread of the disease based on factors of social distancing, the clinical severity of COVID-19, the lack of vaccine or antivirals as treatment options, the crowd density, the inability to ensure social distancing and to prevent close contact among Large Group Event attendees, the number of registrants and unknown attendees coming from affected countries and states from Large Group Events, and the duration and mode of travel of attendees during a Large Group Event, all Large Group Events are prohibited from taking place in the County of Jackson, Missouri, during the duration of the Proclamation, unless Large Group Event organizers can demonstrate to the satisfaction of the County's Director of Health that sufficient mitigation plans for infectious diseases are in place.

Section 3. That the County Administrator, in consultation with the County's Director of Health, is directed, in concert with or acting through the Director of Health, to immediately make and adopt rules and regulations for the evaluation of approval of sufficient mitigation plans for infectious diseases for Large Group Events.

Section 4. This Order shall not apply within the city limits of any municipality within Jackson County which has its own Health Department, as that term is defined in chapter 190, RSMo, and whose mayor has issued a similar proclamation or order addressing the same emergency situation.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the County of Jackson, in the City of Kansas City, this 12th day of March 2020.



Frank White, Jr.