PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY ORDER

Date Issued: April 2nd 2020

Subject: Stay at Home Order

WHEREAS, on April 2, 2020 the Vernon County Commission entered an order declaring a public health emergency to address the 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19) limiting public events to no more than 10 people; and

WHEREAS, the Vernon County Health Department, Vernon County Emergency Management Director and the City of Nevada are working closely with the County Commission and as of April 4, 2020 at 12:01 A.M. this order will take effect until April 25, 2020 with the ability to extend or adjust; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 can result in mild or severe symptoms with the elderly population and those with serious underlying conditions being most at risk from COVID-19, which in some cases may be fatal, yet COVID 19 is contagious to all Vernon County population and ages.

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is highly contagious, and is spread through close contact between persons and respiratory transmission and poses a serious health risk for Vernon County residents and visitors; and

WHEREAS, the County wishes to employ all means available under the law to protect public life, health, safety and property to limit the development, contraction and spread of COVID-19 creating this emergency; and

WHEREAS, after consultation with City, County and State officials there continues to reasonably appear to exist a state of civil emergency which requires a response by the County to protect human life from continued spread of COVID-19, including a directive that the citizens of the County stay-at-home to limit social contact and the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the intent of the Order is to ensure that the maximum number of people remain in their places of residence to the maximum extent feasible while enabling essential services to continue, to slow the spread of COVID-19 within Vernon County. When people leave their place of residence, whether to obtain or perform essential services, or to otherwise facilitate authorized activities, they should at all times reasonably comply with Social Distancing Requirements; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 192.300 RSMo. And CSR 20-20.050(3), the Vernon County Health Department is authorized to promulgate orders intended to enhance the public health and prevent the entrance of infectious, contagious, communicable, or dangerous diseases, such as COVID-19, into the county, including among other things, a declaration that a state of emergency exists in Vernon County, Missouri, and the exercise of all emergency powers not otherwise in conflict with any rules or regulations authorized by the department of health or the Department of Social Services under Chapter 198, RSMo; and
WHEREAS, any essential business that remains open shall promote online business or curb side pickups and or service when at all possible to reduce public interaction, and

WHEREAS, violating a public health order designed to “prevent the entrance of infectious, contagious, communicable or dangerous disease” into Vernon County and can be punishable of a fine of up to $2000.00. Further any person... who shall leave any... quarantined house or place without the consent of the health officer having jurisdiction, or who evades or breaks quarantine or knowingly conceals a case of contagious, infectious, or communicable disease, or who removes, destroys, obstructs from view, or tears down any quarantine card, cloth or notice by the attending physician or by the health officer, or by direction of the property health officer, shall be deemed guilty.

Enforcement Pursuant to 192.300,192.320,192.020 RSMo any sheriff deputy or other law enforcement officer of the state or any political subdivision within Vernon County Missouri is hereby ordered to assist in the execution or enforcement of this order.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Vernon County Health Department may promulgate such mandatory or advisory rules, policies, and guidance as is necessary and appropriate to implement this order. Mandatory rules and policies so promulgated shall have the force of law to the greatest extent permitted by Federal, State, and County law.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED This state of emergency shall be effective at 12:01 a.m. on April 4, 2020 and shall continue for a period of twenty-one (21) days unless renewed or withdrawn.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED BY THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH FOR VERNON COUNTY and HEALTH OFFICER FOR THE COUNTY OF VERNON, THE FOLLOWING IS HEREBY ORDERED:

That the COVID-19 pandemic previously declared to be a public health emergency for Vernon County, remains so.

I. Stay at Home
   A. Individuals may leave their residences or place of rest only to perform “Essential Activities,” as defined infra. People at high risk of severe illness from COVID-19 are urged to stay in their residence or place of rest except as necessary to seek medical care and to obtain provision of essential life items. All individuals shall exercise social distancing requirements at all times.

II. Non-Essential Business and Other Non-Essential Operations Must Cease
   A. All businesses and other operations in Vernon County, except as defined infra or exempted by force of law or Order, are required to cease all in-person operations. Non-essential businesses and other operations may continue
operations consisting exclusively of employees, contractors, or other agents of businesses performing activities at their own residences or places of rest.

III. Definitions and Exemptions

A. Definitions. For purposes of this section, the following terms will have the meaning ascribed to them:

1. “Essential Activities,” shall mean:

i. To engage in activities or perform tasks essential to their health and safety, or to the health and safety of their family or household members (including, but not limited to, pets), or close personal acquaintances, such as, by way of example only and without limitation, obtaining medical supplies or medication, visiting a health care professional, or obtaining supplies they need to work from home;

ii. To obtain necessary services or supplies for themselves and their family or household members, or close personal acquaintances, or to deliver those services or supplies to others, such as, by way of example only and without limitation, canned food, dry goods, fresh fruits and vegetables, pet supply, fresh meats, fish, and poultry, and any other household consumer products, and products necessary to maintain the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of residences;

iii. To engage in outdoor activity, provided the individuals comply with Social Distancing Requirements as defined in this Section, such as, by way of example and without limitation, biking, walking, hiking, or running;

iv. To perform work providing essential products and services at an Essential Business or to otherwise carry out activities specifically
permitted in this Order, including Minimum Basic Operations, as defined infra, at Non-Essential Businesses; and

v. To care for a family member, close personal acquaintance, or pet in another household.

vi. To seek shelter from a severe thunderstorm and/or tornado to the extent necessary to preserve safety and ensuring they return to their place of resident or place of rest as soon as possible.

vii. Essential Activities do not include family gatherings outside of those that live within the residence or place of rest, weddings, funerals, wakes, memorial services, or similar gatherings, however, outdoor memorial services consisting of immediate family are permitted to the extent that the participants comply with Social Distancing Requirements.

2. "Essential Businesses" means any for-profit, non-profit, or educational entities, regardless its corporate or entity structure and includes:

i. Healthcare Operations and Essential Infrastructure;

ii. Grocery stores, markets, food banks, convenience stores, and other establishments engaged in the retail sale of canned food, dry goods, fresh fruits and vegetables, pet supply, fresh meats, fish, and poultry, and any other household consumer products (such as cleaning and personal care products). This includes stores that sell groceries and also sell other non-grocery products, and products necessary to maintaining the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of residences and persons;

iii. Food cultivation, including farming, livestock, and fishing;

iv. Human and animal food processing facility workers;

v. Businesses that provide food, shelter, and social services, and
other necessities of life for economically disadvantaged or otherwise needy individuals;

vi. Newspapers, television, radio, and other media services;

vii. Gas stations and auto-supply, auto-repair, and related facilities;

viii. Banks and related financial institutions;

ix. Hardware stores;

x. Plumbers, electricians, exterminators, cemetery workers, undertakers, and other service providers who provide services that are necessary to maintaining the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of residences, Essential Activities, and Essential Businesses;

xi. Businesses providing mailing and shipping services, including post office boxes;

xii. Educational institutions—including public and private K-12 schools, colleges, and universities—for purposes of facilitating distance learning or performing essential functions related to distance learning and provision of other services related student welfare, including but not limited to food provision and delivery, provided that social distancing of six-feet per person is maintained to the greatest extent possible;

xiii. Laundromats, dry cleaners, and laundry service providers;

xiv. Railroads and rail systems;

xv. Restaurants and other facilities that prepare and serve food and drink must be prepared for Consumption off site only. Food should be prepared only for delivery, drive-through, and curbside pick-up.

Schools and other entities that typically provide free food services to students or members of the public
may continue to do so under this Order on the condition that the food is provided to students or members of the public on an outdoor pick-up and takeaway basis only. Schools and other entities that provide food services under this exemption shall not permit the food or drink to be consumed at the site where it is provided, or at any other gathering site;

xvi. Businesses that supply products needed for people to work from home;

xvii. Businesses that supply other essential businesses with the support or supplies necessary to operate;

xviii. Businesses that ship or deliver groceries, food, goods or services directly to residences;

xix. Airlines, taxis, and other private transportation providers providing transportation services necessary for Essential Activities and other purposes expressly authorized in this Order, as well as transportation maintenance services such as mechanics necessary to keep transportation services operational;

xx. Home-based care for seniors, adults, or children;

xxi. Residential facilities and shelters for seniors, adults, and children;

xxii. Professional services, such as legal or accounting services, when necessary to assist in compliance with legally mandated activities;

xxiii. Childcare facilities providing services that enable employees exempted in this Order to work as permitted. To the extent possible, childcare facilities should operate under the following conditions:

1. Childcare should be carried out in stable groups, preferably with 10 or fewer ("stable" means that the same 10 or fewer children are in the same group each day);
2. Children should not change from one group to another;
3. If more than one group of children is cared for at one facility, each group should be in a separate room. Groups should not mix with each other; and
4. Childcare providers should remain solely with one group of children;

xxlv. Blood services operations which includes blood drives, manufacturing and distribution activities.

3. “Essential Infrastructure and Business,” shall mean to include, but not be limited to, public works construction, residential and commercial construction, construction suppliers, manufacturing, ag suppliers, airport operations, water, sewer, gas, electrical, oil refining, railroad and rail systems, roads and highways, public transportation, solid waste collection and removal, internet, and telecommunications systems (including the provision of essential infrastructure for computing services, business infrastructure, communications, and web-based services), provided that they carry out those services or that work in compliance with Social Distancing Requirements as defined this Section, to the extent possible.

B. Non - Essential business include but not limited to," theaters, gyms and recreation centers, bars, hair / nail salons and spas, bowling alleys, museums, auditoriums, and large meeting halls, outdoor spectator sports.

4. “Healthcare Operations” shall include hospitals, clinics, dentists, pharmacies, pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies, other healthcare facilities, healthcare suppliers, home healthcare services providers, mental health providers, or any related and/or ancillary healthcare services. “Healthcare Operations” also includes veterinary
care and all healthcare services provided to animals. This exemption shall be construed broadly to avoid any impacts to the delivery of healthcare, broadly defined. "Healthcare Operations" does not include fitness and exercise gyms and similar facilities.

5. "Minimum Basic Operations" includes the following, provided that employees comply with Social Distancing Requirements as defined in this Section, to the extent possible, while carrying out such operations:
   i. The minimum necessary activities to maintain the value of the business's inventory and facilities, ensure security, process payroll and employee benefits, or for related functions; and
   ii. The minimum necessary activities to facilitate employees of the business being able to continue to work remotely from their residences, place of rest, or elsewhere.

6. "Social Distancing Requirements" includes maintaining at least six-foot physical distancing from other individuals, washing hands with soap and water for at least twenty seconds as frequently as possible or using hand sanitizer, regularly cleaning/disinfecting high-touch surfaces, and not shaking hands.

B. Regulated Activities. To the fullest extent allowed by law, the following restrictions are imposed:
1. Individuals may leave their residence or place of rest only to undertake Essential Activities or to provide any services or perform any work necessary to the operations and maintenance of Essential Business, Essential Infrastructure, Healthcare Operations and Minimum Basic Operations.
2. Individuals at high risk of severe illness from COVID-19 and those who are 
Sick, are urged to stay in their residence except as necessary to seek 
medical care.

3. Individuals shall not visit nursing homes, long-term care facilities, 
retirement homes, or assisted living homes unless to provide critical 
assistance.

C. Exemptions. All first responders, emergency management personnel, 
emergency dispatchers, court personnel, law enforcement personnel, and school 
personnel operating at the direction of administrator designation, and others 
working for or to support Essential Businesses are categorically exempt from this 
Order. Further, nothing in this Order shall prohibit any individual from 
performing or accessing “Essential Governmental Functions.” Essential 
Government Functions means all services needed to ensure the continuing 
operation of any government agencies, and provide for the 
health, safety and welfare of the public. All Essential Governmental Functions 
should be performed in compliance with Social Distancing Requirements as 
defined this Section, to the extent possible.

IV. School Operations

A. For purposes of this section, “School Operations” means any institution of 
elementary or secondary education, including but not limited to public, 
chartered, private, or parochial institutions. School Operations does not include 
a requirement that school buildings be closed if needed to house individuals, 
distribute food or clothing, provide medical care or any other services deemed 
necessary to protect the life and property of Vernon County citizens and other critical 
resources.
B. 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 groups, in-person classroom-based School
Operations are prohibited from taking place in Vernon County, Missouri, during
the duration of this Order.

V. No Conflict with State Order
This Public Health Emergency Order shall not be construed nor operate to conflict with any
applicable order issued by the Missouri Governor and/or the Director of the Missouri Center of
Health and Senior Services.

VI Effective Date and Time; Repealer
This Order will begin at 12:01 a.m., April 4, and expire on 12:01 a.m. on Saturday,
April 25, 2020 unless and until it is extended, rescinded, superseded, or amended in writing.
Upon its effective date and time, all previous orders are repealed.
IT IS SO ORDERED THIS 2nd, DAY OF April, 2020.

[Signature]
Vernon County Health Director
Steve Durnell

[Signature]
Vernon County Presiding Commissioner
Joe Hardin

Date/Time 4/4/20 14:44
Date/Time 04-02-2020 14:44