



JOHNSON COUNTY COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES

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PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY

The novel coronavirus disease (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

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

The Center for Disease Control (“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 others before showing symptoms, which means that the virus can spread between people interacting in close proximity (for example, speaking, coughing, or sneezing), even if those people are not exhibiting symptoms.

In December 2020, the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine became available to Johnson County residents, followed shortly by the Moderna vaccine. As of March 23, 2021, approximately 13.7% of the Johnson County population have initiated vaccination, with 7,389 first doses administered.

On March 25, 2021, the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services reported Johnson County, Missouri at a 7-day positivity rate of 2.9%, with a projected -1.0% change in positivity rate over the next 7 days.

The Johnson County Public Health Officer and the Johnson County Community Health Services Board of Trustees issues the following county-wide Public Health Advisory:

In accordance with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance and the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, individuals within Johnson County, Missouri are strongly encouraged to:

- Wear a face covering that covers nose and mouth to help protect yourself and others.
- Physical distance (6 feet apart) when around others who do not live in the same household.
- Avoid crowds and poorly ventilated indoor spaces.
- Wash hands often with soap and water. Use hand sanitizer when soap and water are unavailable.
- Get a COVID-19 vaccine when available.

COVID-19 vaccines are effective at protecting individuals from getting severely ill. Based on what scientists know about COVID-19, individuals who have been fully vaccinated can begin doing some things that may have stopped because of the pandemic. However, as CDC continues to learn how vaccines will affect the spread of COVID-19, individuals receiving the vaccine, should continue taking precautions in public places like wearing a mask, staying 6-feet apart, and avoiding crowds and poorly ventilated areas.



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Face coverings should not be placed on young children under age 2, anyone who has trouble breathing, or is unconscious, incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance.

Parties and social gatherings involving those outside the immediate household should be avoided. If an individual must be in public or private settings involving such gatherings, the use of face coverings are strongly encouraged in conjunction with other precautionary measures to include maintaining 6 feet of distance from other individuals, using proper cough/sneeze etiquette, disinfecting frequently touched surfaces regularly, and frequent hand-washing/sanitizing.

Businesses, organizations, and other facilities (including but not limited to grocery stores, pharmacies, businesses/organizations, place of worship, gym, community centers, libraries, schools) where the public are entering, and social distancing cannot be maintained, may develop and implement additional precautionary measures (i.e. requiring face coverings for entry, requiring employees to wear face coverings during scheduled work hours, requiring face coverings within a classroom/conference setting, etc.) to protect those within their facility.

For more information, visit the CDC’s website at www.cdc.gov/coronavirus and the MO DHSS website at www.health.mo.gov/coronavirus and www.covidvaccine.mo.gov.

Individuals may also call the MO DHSS hotline at 877-435-8411 for questions regarding COVID-19 in Missouri.