



Knob Noster R-VIII School District

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Dr. Jerrod Wheeler, Superintendent of Schools

Mr. Michael Cohron, Assistant Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Angela Rolofson, Director, Student Services

Our Mission Is Student Success

Date: 10-8-20

To: KNPS Parents

From: Jerrod Wheeler

Re: Johnson County Public Health Order Effective 10-12-20

Dear Parents:

As shared in previous communications, the district is committed to sharing open and timely communication, including developments related to COVID-19.

Yesterday, the district was notified that the Johnson County Community Health Services Board voted to reinstate the Public Health Order, mandating face coverings in public spaces. This order will go back into effect on Monday, October 12. As a result, the district will return to the protocols which were originally in place when we returned to school in August. In short, students in all buildings will be required to wear masks indoors and outdoors when moving about and when they are not able to maintain a physical distance of 6 feet or more from all individuals. A copy of that order is included with this memo.

We recognize that not all members of our school or community agree with the use of face coverings. However, a recent survey of KNPS employees indicated that nearly 70% are in favor of face coverings, with an additional 20% having no opinion or being undecided on the use of face coverings. Only 10% were against. As a team, we will come together to reinstate this mandate, and we respectfully ask for your understanding and cooperation once again on this safety protocol. We also send a sincere thank you to the JCCHS Board for their ongoing leadership and decision making during this time.

While we continue to enjoy the fantastic weather, we know winter is just around the corner. With that comes flu season. To better prepare for our response, the district has shifted our Head Registered Nurse, Mrs. Janelle Crabtree, exclusively to serve as our COVID-19 coordinator. This position will assist with the internal tracking and coordination on positive cases, contact tracing, and communications with parents. Nurse Crabtree will also assume the liaison responsibilities with our local and state health agencies.

As shared in my last correspondence, the district implemented an online COVID-19 dashboard on our district website to keep our parents and community informed of our positive cases and quarantine status. This information is updated each Friday afternoon. Look for the final update for this week tomorrow. We are pleased that our numbers have significantly improved from last week.

In related news, I want to send a specific thank you to our parents, grandparents and others who have been transporting your students to and from school. We know the additional traffic and additional required time has been a burden. However, these efforts have been invaluable in allowing the district to enhance safety on its buses. Thank you for your time, efforts, and ongoing focus on safety during arrival and dismissal. Your partnership and patience in this area is sincerely appreciated.

As we begin to look toward second semester, please anticipate a survey in mid-November to gather information and preferences on your preferred educational format for second semester. We plan to push this survey back as late as we can, to allow you to have as much time and up-to date developments as possible before making that decision. We will follow a similar approach as we did at the start of the year for placement of students, once we hear from you.

Should you have any questions or feedback, please feel free to contact me at 660-563-3186 or via email at jwheeler@knr8.net. As always, we thank you for your partnership, collaboration, and communication as we move forward during this time.

Very Respectfully,

Jerrold Wheeler



JOHNSON COUNTY COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES

Home Health • Public Health • Hospice

"Improving Your Quality of Life"

PUBLIC HEALTH ORDER (Face Covering Order)

WHEREAS, 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

WHEREAS, on March 13 the 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

WHEREAS, as of March 31, 2020, the COVID-19 virus has been confirmed in multiple cases in Johnson County, Missouri, with multiple deaths within the State of Missouri; demonstrating community spread with the number of cases escalating; and

WHEREAS, Johnson County Public Health Officer has issued various orders restricting public gatherings in the county, restricting operation of certain businesses and activities, and requiring residents to stay home, all intended to limit the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on June 30, 2020, Johnson County Community Health Services confirmed 134 cases of the COVID-19 virus in Johnson County, Missouri, 10 of which have been hospitalized, with 44 new cases within the last ten days, an increase of 32.8%, from the COVID-19 illness; and

WHEREAS, on July 21, 2020 Johnson County Community Health Services confirmed 377 cases of the COVID-19 virus in Johnson County, Missouri, 22 of which have been hospitalized, 2 deaths, with 243 new cases within the last twenty-two (22) days, an increase of 280%, from the COVID-19 illness; and

WHEREAS, on August 14, 2020 Johnson County Community Health Services confirmed 473 cases of the COVID-19 virus in Johnson County, Missouri, 30 of which have been hospitalized, and 3 deaths. Johnson County, Missouri reports a 73.9% decline in new cases resulted August 1 through August 14, 2020 (52 cases) compared to new cases resulted July 1 to 14, 2020 (199 cases), from the COVID-19 illness since the implementation of said face covering public health order; and

WHEREAS, on September 30, 2020 Johnson County Community Health Services confirmed 1,307 cases of the COVID-19 virus in Johnson County, Missouri, 63 of which have been hospitalized, with 701 new cases within the last thirty (30) days (September 1-30, 2020), an increase of 116%, from the COVID-19 illness; and

WHEREAS, the spread of COVID-19 will continue to grow at an exponential rate for the foreseeable future unless additional measures are implemented to reduce the spread of the disease within Johnson County, Missouri; and

WHEREAS, in addition to overwhelming the medical system and threatening the health and lives of residents, the spread of the disease will cause economic damage, disruption and hardship in the event the county finds it necessary to return to the former stay at home order to reduce the spread of the disease;

WHEREAS, the key transmission method for the COVID-19 virus is through respiratory droplets that individuals expel when they breathe, speak, cough, or sneeze; and

WHEREAS, individuals can be infected

WHEREAS, 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; and

WHEREAS, the CDC recommends wearing cloth face coverings in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain, including but not limited to, grocery stores, pharmacies, and other areas of significant community-based transmission; and

WHEREAS, the CDC is advising the use of simple cloth face coverings to slow the spread of the virus and help individuals who may have the virus, and do not know it, from transmitting it to others.

WHEREAS, the wearing of face coverings by patrons and employees to the greatest extent possible may allow businesses remain open while protecting the health and safety of the public and employees and keeping the local economy strong during the period in which the disease is being brought under control the community; and

WHEREAS, the Health Department finds it necessary for the immediate preservation of public health and safety and 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, the enforcement of this order is reliant upon execution of attached endorsements by the Johnson County Commissioners (Endorsement 1), Johnson County Prosecutor's Office (Endorsement 2), Johnson County Sheriff (Endorsement 3) OR City of Warrensburg (Endorsement 4), City of Knob Noster (Endorsement 5), City of Holden (Endorsement 6), City of Centerview (Endorsement 7), City of Leeton (Endorsement 8), City of Kingsville (Endorsement 9), and City of Chilhowee (Endorsement 10).

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED BY THE JOHNSON COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER AND JOHNSON COUNTY COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES 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 community center or library) individuals are required to wear a face covering that covers the nose and mouth simultaneously.**
 - 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 workspace 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 pastor of a church, key note speaker, instructor) are speaking to a group, and can absolutely guarantee that they will be able to maintain social distancing of at least 6 feet apart from all others during presentation.
 - e. Businesses may refuse service to any person who refuses to wear a face covering in compliance with this order.
- 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. Including all outdoor public gathering places such as bus stops, sidewalks, parks, playgrounds, farmer markets, and restaurant/bar patio seating.
 - b. Face coverings are not required when individuals are driving alone or with others they live with; when individuals are exercising alone or with others they live with.
 - c. Face coverings are not required when individuals can absolutely guarantee that they will be able to maintain social distancing of at least 6 feet apart from all others.
- 3. The following individuals are exempt from the requirement to wear a face covering:**
 - a. While outdoors when able to maintain a distance of at least six feet from others;
 - b. While exercising outdoors or while exercising indoors when able to maintain a distance of at least six feet from others;
 - c. When engaged in a sporting activity provided that adequate social distancing and face covering provisions are observed as is possible;

- d. When engaged in outside labor/work during extreme heat provided that adequate social distancing and face covering provisions are observed as is possible;
- e. When any party to a communication is deaf or hard of hearing and not wearing a face covering is essential to communication;
- f. While obtaining a service that requires temporary removal of the face covering, such as dental examinations;
- g. When necessary to confirm the individual's identity;
- h. When federal or state law prohibits wearing the face covering or requires the removal of a face covering;
- i. When requested by a law enforcement officer;
- j. When requested by a medical provider, including emergency response personnel;
- k. When in a business/commercial/office setting and not within six feet of any other person; provided however, when moving from place to place within a business location, where the person cannot maintain at all times a distance of six feet from all other persons a face covering shall be worn;
- l. Students while attending school in a classroom setting and/or who participate in school sponsored activities (i.e. sports, clubs), while attending class or 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 current public health order.
- m. Children younger than five years old; and
 - i. Children who are younger than two years old should never wear face coverings due to the risk of suffocation.
 - ii. Children who are two, three, and four years old, with 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 six feet cannot be maintained from non-household members and where the vulnerable population may be present (i.e. including, but not limited to grocery stores, pharmacies).
- n. 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.

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

- A sewn mask secured with ties or straps around the head or behind the ears;
- Multiple layers of fabric tied around the head;
- Made from a variety of materials, such as fleece, cotton, or linen; or

- 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 healthcare settings and first responders, who are assisting individuals during this virus crisis.

Non-essential and commercial businesses which are not open to the public may re-open provided social distancing is followed and appropriate PPE is available.

Playgrounds, spray grounds, swimming pools and similar spaces with shared play equipment are permitted to open, provided that adequate social distancing and face covering provisions are observed as is possible. Further, it is highly recommended those utilizing these types of spaces bring sanitization resources while using said spaces. Failure of the public to adequately social distance and/or wear masks as is possible may result in the issuance of citations and/or the space being closed to the public.

Adult and youth sporting tournaments are permitted to take place, provided that adequate social distancing and mask wearing provisions are observed as is possible. Further, it is highly recommended those participating in sporting tournaments bring sanitization resources while engaging in these sporting events. Failure of the public to adequately social distance and/or wear masks as is possible may result in the issuance of citations and/or the cancellation and banning of sporting tournaments. 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.

Best practice recommendations are that individuals should wear face covering in public settings when around people outside of their household, especially when social distancing measures are difficult to maintain. Cloth face covering may help prevent individuals who have COVID-19 from spreading the virus to others, and are most likely to reduce the spread of COVID-19 when they are widely used by individuals in public settings.

Enforcement:

In compliance with Sections 192.300 and 192.320 RSMo, the Public Health Officer requests the Johnson County Sheriffs, local Police Chiefs, Park Rangers and other local law enforcement within Johnson County assist in enforcement of this Order. Violation of any provision of this order constitutes an imminent threat, creates an immediate danger to public health, and shall be considered a violation of Section 192.320 RSMo.

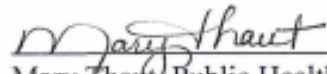
No Conflict with State Order

This 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 Department of Health and Senior Services.

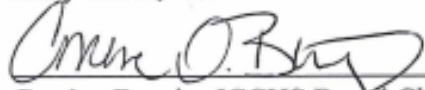
Effective Date and Time:

This Order becomes effective at 12:01am, Monday, October 12, 2020 and shall remain in effect until further notice, unless rescinded, superseded or amended in writing.

IT IS SO ORDERED THIS 10th DAY OF October, 2020.



Mary Thaut, Public Health Officer



Corrine Burgin, JCCHS Board Chairperson




Rick Edwards, JCCHS Board Treasurer



Kay Stauffer, JCCHS Board Secretary



Darlene Buckstead, JCCH Board Member



Donna Stewart, JCCHS Board Member