



# SAFER AT HOME RECOVERY PLAN



Order goes into effect at 12:01 a.m. Friday, February 26, 2021



## Masks Required

All persons over the age of five, including employees or visitors, present at any business, public accommodation, or outdoors where social distancing is not possible must wear a face mask or covering.\*



## Bars & Restaurants Resume Normal Hours

Restaurants, taverns, and all other venues serving food and drink indoors may now resume normal hours.



## 50 Person Gathering Limit

All gatherings shall not exceed fifty (50) people.\*\*



## Must Wear Masks at Gym

At gyms, fitness, and recreational centers all patrons must wear masks indoors at all times and maintain social distancing of no less than six feet.

Parties are limited to 10 or fewer persons and parties shall be spaced with no less than six feet of distance between themselves and individuals from any other parties.



## 50% Business Occupancy

All businesses that are frequented by the public must limit the number of individuals (staff and customers) in the building or room to 50% of the lowest occupancy load of the room or facility in which the gathering is occurring. This is only permissible as long as adequate social distancing can be maintained.



## Post Social Distancing Protocol

All businesses that are open to the general public are required to complete and post a Social Distancing Protocol that is easily accessible to the staff and customers.

\*The following individuals are exempt from the requirement to wear a face covering: those who are deaf or hard of hearing, children younger than five years old; and children who are younger than two years old should never wear face coverings due to the risk of suffocation. Children who are two, three, or four years old, with the assistance and close supervision of an adult, are strongly recommended to wear a face covering at all times in settings, like grocery stores or pharmacies, where it is likely that a distance of at least six feet cannot be maintained from non-household members and vulnerable people must go. 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.

Businesses shall deny entry to and refuse to serve members of the public who refuse to wear face coverings, unless a medical exemption applies or the individual is a child under the age of five. A business shall neither require the individual to produce medical documentation verifying a medical condition or disability, nor ask about the nature of a medical condition or disability. Businesses are encouraged to offer members of the public alternatives to in-person shopping such as curbside pickup and delivery.

\*\*Face covering exemptions do not apply to gyms, fitness, and recreational centers. Face coverings must be worn at all times while inside these facilities, including while working out. If you are unable to wear a mask because of difficulty breathing during high intensity activities, choose an outdoor location with greater ventilation and air exchange and where social distancing from others can be guaranteed. Participants may consult with their primary care provider to determine if vigorous activity while wearing a mask is safe for them.

§All gatherings exceeding 50 people are required to submit a Gathering Protocol at least 7 business days in advance of the event (except for churches, which are at 50% capacity). The Gathering Protocol must be approved by Jackson County and easily accessible to all attendees.



### GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- **This order applies to Eastern Jackson County, defined as all areas of Jackson County outside of the city limits of Kansas City and Independence.**
- When able, please stay home and avoid unnecessary travel.
- Maintain at least 6 feet of social distancing between individuals outside of your household AND wear masks at all times when indoors. Masks must be worn outdoors when you cannot guarantee you will be able to maintain a 6-foot distance from others.
- Practice good hand hygiene by washing hands or using hand sanitizer frequently.
- Stay home if you have any symptoms of illness.
- Seek medical care immediately if you have worsening signs of illness.
- Event organizers should strongly consider postponing or canceling their events or gatherings during uncontrolled community transmission. The more people at an event and the more interaction between people, the higher the risk of transmission of COVID-19.
- Remember, some community members are at high risk of becoming very ill with COVID-19. It is up to all of us to keep them safe. High risk community members (people above the age of 60, those with underlying medical conditions, or those who are pregnant) should take extra care to stay home as much as possible, including working from home, and avoidance of travel, avoidance of visitors from outside of their family, and avoidance of large gatherings.



## CONSIDERATIONS OF RISK

### *DENSITY:*

- The amount of people in a single space should allow for adequate social distancing and maneuverability. Large groups of people have a higher risk of transmission.

### *PROXIMITY:*

- People located within a single space should not be within 6 feet of each other unless they are a part of the same household. Individuals located in close proximity to one another have a higher risk of being exposed to an infectious dose of virus.

### *TIME:*

- People located in one spot (usually indoors) for longer than 10-15 minutes with high density, proximity, and contact with others have a substantially higher risk of being exposed to an infectious dose of virus.

### *CONTACT:*

- People who come into contact with others, through hugging, talking, or sharing items have an increased risk of being exposed to an infectious dose of virus.

### *MODIFICATIONS:*

- Modifications like mask wearing, social distancing, and hand washing may help to lower the risk of transmission in certain settings even in spaces with large numbers of people who occasionally come within 6 feet of another.



### Mask Ordinance Guidance

- When in a public indoor space (including a workplace, business, school, place of worship, or public facility such as a community center or library) individuals are required to wear a mask covering the nose and mouth
  - o Masks should be positioned carefully over the mouth and nose and should not be touched or readjusted until such time as the mask is removed. Hand hygiene is encouraged before taking masks off and prior to re-masking.
  - o Masks are not required inside a solitary, enclosed workspace such as office.
  - o Masks may be removed in restaurants and bars when individuals are actively eating or drinking but must be worn at all times otherwise.
- When in a public outdoor space or when using public transportation, taxis or ride-sharing services individuals are required to wear a mask covering the nose and mouth.
  - o Including all outdoor public gathering places such as bus stops, parks, playgrounds, farmers markets, and restaurant/bar patio seating.
  - o Masks 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, or when individuals can absolutely guarantee that they will be able to maintain at least 6 feet of social distancing from all others.
- The following individuals are exempt from the requirement to wear a face covering:
  - o Those who are deaf or hard of hearing
  - o Children younger than five years old; and
  - o Children who are younger than two years old should never wear face coverings due to the risk of suffocation.
  - o Children who are two, three, or four years old, with the assistance and close supervision of an adult, are strongly recommended to wear a face covering at all times in settings, like grocery stores or pharmacies, where it is likely that a distance of at least six feet cannot be maintained from non-household members and vulnerable people must go.
  - o 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.
- Individuals should not wear cloth face coverings while engaged in activities that may cause the cloth face covering to become wet, like when swimming at the beach or pool. A wet cloth face covering may make it difficult to breathe. For activities like swimming, it is particularly important to maintain physical distance from others when in the water.
- Individuals who work in a setting where cloth face coverings may increase the risk of heat-related illness or cause safety concerns due to introduction of a hazard (for instance, straps getting caught in machinery) may consult with an occupational safety and health professional to determine the appropriate face covering for their setting. Outdoor workers may prioritize use of cloth face coverings when in close contact with other people, like during group travel or shift meetings, and remove face coverings when social distancing is possible.



## SUPPORT FOR EMPLOYERS & OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

Employers and other organizations in our community care about the safety of their employees, volunteers, customers, and congregations. In order to ensure safety while in a phased reopening, this document contains general guidance and strategies to support the business and nonprofit community. Due to the volume of requests, the Jackson County Health Department will not be available to gauge the setup of your business operations or approve your plans. Instead, use the resources outlined in this plan and that will be available at [jaco hd.org/coronavirus](http://jaco hd.org/coronavirus).

### COVID-19 ORGANIZATION CONTACT

*Each organization is asked to select a COVID-19 coordinator for each physical location.* The COVID-19 coordinator will lead the implementation of strategies to reduce the spread of COVID-19. This individual may be familiar with workplace safety (such as a safety point person, risk manager, employee health coordinator, etc.) or may have no previous experience with this topic. Key qualities of a coordinator include someone who will take action to implement the recommended measures, stay aware of changes to recommendations through the official communication channels on the website, and has the authority to reinforce the need to follow the measures on an ongoing basis throughout the reopening phases.

### COVID-19 SOCIAL DISTANCING PROTOCOL

*All organizations are required to prepare and post a "Social Distancing Protocol"* for each of their facilities in the County frequented by the public or employees. A template will be available on [jaco hd.org/coronavirus](http://jaco hd.org/coronavirus) by May 8th. The Social Distancing Protocol must be substantially in accordance with the recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The Social Distancing Protocol must be posted at or near the

entrance of the relevant facility, and shall be easily viewable by the public and employees. All facilities that are open to the public or employees in any capacity must implement the Social Distancing Protocol and provide evidence of its implementation. The Social Distancing Protocol must explain how the business is achieving the following, as applicable:

- Limiting the number of people who can enter into the facility at any one time to ensure that people in the facility can easily maintain a minimum six-foot distance from one another at all times and comply with Phase I guidelines, except as required to complete Essential Business activity;
- Where lines may form at a facility, marking six-foot increments at a minimum, establishing where individuals should stand to maintain adequate social distancing;
- Providing hand sanitizer, soap and water, or effective disinfectant at or near the entrance of the facility and in other appropriate areas for use by the public and employees, and in locations where there is high-frequency employee interaction with members of the public;
- Providing for contactless payment systems or, if not feasible to do so, the providing for disinfecting all payment portals, pens, and styluses after each use;
- Regularly disinfecting other high-touch surfaces; and
- Posting a sign at the entrance of the facility informing all employees and customers that they should; avoid entering the facility if they have a cough or fever; maintain a minimum six-foot distance from one another; sneeze and cough into one's elbow; don't shake hands or engage in any unnecessary physical contact.



### COVID-19 SAFETY SIGNAGE

Everyone doing their part is central to our local plan. An important way employers can *protect the health of their employees and customers* is by displaying information on the basic ways we can all do our part to protect each other's safety. In order to help educate employees and the public, *workplaces should print and post the two safety signs that will be available at* [jaco.hd.org/coronavirus](http://jaco.hd.org/coronavirus). The first sign is for display on the public entrance of each organization. The second sign is for display on employee entrances. If there is only one entrance, both signs can be displayed at that entrance.

### COVID-19 COMMUNICATION & SUPPORT

The health department will remain focused on its primary role of leading efforts to build community capacity to combat COVID-19. *It will not be possible for the health department to "sign off" on the ways individual businesses implement the enclosed guidelines.*

*Instead of directly contacting the Jackson County Health Department, there will be three main ways for employers and other organizations to get information.*

They include a call center at 816-404-9883, newsletter, and potential virtual trainings.

COVID-19 coordinators are asked to sign up for an email distribution list (listserv) by completing a registration form. This listserv will push out *emails with practical strategies employers can implement to protect their employees and customers*. It will provide real-time updates, including mid-phase changes made to prevent relapse or to promote the ability of the community to advance to the next phase.

### COVID-19 RECOGNITION PROGRAM

Employers who select COVID-19 coordinators, display the two safety signs mentioned above and enroll in the COVID-19 communication listserv will be given the opportunity to display a certificate showing their commitment to the health of their employees and customers. We know businesses in our area are eager to show their commitment to safety. By mobilizing a COVID-19 coordinator, displaying and operationalizing vital information, and staying up to date on the best ways to reduce transmission, our area businesses will be providing their commitment through action.