



### **Platte County Health Department Public Health Recommendations 2021 05 15**

WHEREAS, the spread of COVID-19 continues to pose a threat to the health, safety, and welfare of persons and property within Platte County, Missouri; and

WHEREAS, to reduce the spread of COVID-19, measures that are recommended and considered effective by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC") include among other measures, avoiding close contact with other people and covering one's mouth and nose with a cloth face cover when in public indoor settings; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 vaccines are now available to all Platte County, Missouri, residents ages 12 and over; and

WHEREAS, as of May 4, 2021 43.43% of eligible Platte County residents in Platte County Health Department's jurisdiction have received at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine and 35.06% are fully vaccinated; and

WHEREAS, variants of the COVID-19 virus remain a threat to the health and safety of all Platte County, Missouri residents, in that sufficient scientific research of the effectiveness of available vaccines on COVID-19 variants is under review; and

WHEREAS, there are members of the Platte County, Missouri population that are unable to receive a COVID-19 vaccine due to underlying health concerns or their minor age and therefore a portion of the Platte County, Missouri population remains at risk for serious illness related to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the State of Emergency declared by the President of the United States on March 13, 2020 was last extended by the President of the United States on February 24, 2021 and remains in place, and the undersigned Director concurs that the public is still faced with a public health emergency on this date; and

WHEREAS, for the aforementioned and other reasons, and in recognition and furtherance of the County Health Department's responsibility to provide for and ensure the health, safety, security, and welfare of the people of Platte County; and

WHEREAS, I, Mary Jo Vernon, Director of the Platte County Health Department, do find the aforementioned conditions continue to constitute a threat to the health, safety, and welfare of the residents of Platte County.

NOW, THEREFORE, under the power vested in me under appropriate local, state and federal laws, regulations, ordinances and other enabling provisions, I, Mary Jo Vernon, Director of Public Health for the Platte County Health Department and Health Officer for the County of Platte, under the authority delegated by the State of Missouri Statutes, Code of State Regulations and Platte County, Missouri, Ordinances Chapter 230.010 – 240.090 hereby recommend that the businesses, residents and visitors to Platte County, Missouri follow the public health guidance set forth below.

### **Section One: Definitions**

- A. For purposes of these Recommendations, people are considered **fully vaccinated**:
  - 1. 2 weeks after their second dose in a 2-dose series, such as the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines; or
  - 2. 2 weeks after a single-dose vaccine, such as Johnson & Johnson's Janssen vaccine.
- B. For purposes of these Recommendations, a **Mask or Face Covering** means a cloth face covering that covers the nose and mouth at the same time. It can be:
  - 1. A sewn face covering or mask secured with ties or straps around the head or behind the ears;
  - 2. Multiple layers of fabric tied around the head;
  - 3. Made from a variety of materials, such as fleece, cotton, or linen; or
  - 4. Factory made or made from household items.

### **Section Two: Exemptions**

- A. The following individuals are not included in recommendations to use a Mask or Face Covering:
  - 1. Fully vaccinated people;
  - 2. Children under the age of two;
  - 3. Persons who have disabilities that prevent them from comfortably wearing or taking off a Face Covering or prevent them from communicating while wearing a Face Covering;
  - 4. Persons who have a respiratory condition that is exacerbated by the wearing of a Face Covering;
  - 5. Persons who have been told by a medical, legal, or behavioral health professional not to wear a Face Covering;
  - 6. Persons who are indoors at a place of public accommodation and are actively engaged in consuming food or drink while maintaining six feet of physical distance from others;
  - 7. Persons who are hearing impaired, or communicating with a person who is hearing impaired, where the ability to see the mouth is essential for communication;
  - 8. Persons who are obtaining a service involving the nose or face for which temporary removal of the Face Covering is necessary to perform the service; and
  - 9. Persons engaged in swimming, wading, or activities that may cause the cloth face covering to become wet, thus making it difficult to breathe.

### **Section Three: Business Operations and Gatherings**

- A. All previous limits on business operations and gatherings under previous COVID-19 orders are rescinded.
- B. The recommendations herein apply to non-healthcare settings. For related information for healthcare settings, view the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC's) [Updated Healthcare Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations in Response to COVID-19 Vaccination](#) and any revisions thereof.
- C. Elementary and Secondary Schools should continue to comply with "[Missouri School Reopening & Operating Guidance](#)", created by the Department of Health & Senior Services and the Department of Elementary & Secondary Education (DESE) and any revisions thereof.
- D. Masks or face coverings may be required by businesses, which may refuse service to any person who refuses to wear a Mask or Face Covering. However, a business may not require an individual to produce written verification of a medical condition or advise that prohibits use of a Mask or Face Covering.

**Section Three:** Community Health Guidance.

- A. All eligible persons are encouraged to limit exposure, to the extent possible, by obtaining a federally-approved COVID-19 vaccine.
- B. Residents and visitors to Platte County Missouri should follow CDC's [Interim Public Health Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated People](#) and any revisions thereof.

These Public Health Recommendations shall begin immediately upon passage and approval by the Platte County Board of Health Center Trustees and shall remain in effect until they are extended, rescinded, superseded, or amended in writing prior thereto.

It is so recommended this 15<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2021 at 9:13 AM.

Mary Jo Vernon, Director

Platte County Health Department