



## Governor Directs Health Department to Order Social Distancing Statewide

*Stay-at-Home Orders Begin Monday in St. Louis City and County*

At a press conference yesterday, Governor Mike Parson announced he was directing the Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) to require social distancing statewide. Today, the Governor issued a release that DHSS is ordering the following as part of this effort:

1. "In accordance with the guidelines from the President and the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention, every person in the State of Missouri shall avoid social gatherings of more than ten (10) people. For purposes of this Order, "social gatherings" shall mean any planned or spontaneous event or convening that would bring together more than ten (10) people in a single space at the same time.
2. In accordance with the guidelines from the President and the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention, every person in the State of Missouri shall avoid eating or drinking at restaurants, bars, or food courts; provided, however, that the use of drive-thru, pickup, or delivery options is allowed throughout the duration of this Order.
3. In accordance with the guidelines from the President and the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention, people shall not visit nursing homes, long-term care facilities, retirement homes, or assisted living homes unless to provide critical assistance.
4. In accordance with the guidelines from the President and the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention, schools shall remain closed. This Order does not prohibit schools from providing child care and Food and Nutritional Services for those children that qualify. Teachers and staff may enter the building as long as they follow the directives set forth in this Order."

This does not prohibit individuals from going to grocery stores, parks, gas stations, or banks. Workplaces that remain open are encouraged to have employees work from home when possible. This order takes effect March 23 and will last until April 6, unless extended. You can read the full press release on the order [here](#).

The Governor also issued a [press release](#) on state agencies' responses to help individuals during the COVID-19 pandemic. This includes:

- During the public health emergency, eligibility for Medicaid participants will not be terminated unless the individual requests a voluntary termination or moves out of state.

- The tax filing deadline remains the same, but the payment deadline for individual state income taxes is extended to July 15.
- Vehicle owners with registrations or license plates expiring in March and April are granted an automatic two-month extension.

St. Louis County Executive Sam Page and St. Louis City Major Lyda Krewson announced their jurisdictions will be adopting stay-at-home orders starting Monday. The orders will direct residents to stay at home when possible. However, they will not prevent individuals from obtaining essential goods and services or from going to work, if their business/industry is permitted to remain open under the orders.

You can view the St. Louis County Department of Public Health Stay at Home Order here. The St. Louis City Health Commissioner's Order is online here. Both begin March 23 and extend until April 22.