

**ORDER 2020-01  
OF THE WEBSTER COUNTY COMMISSION**

DATE ISSUED: March 17, 2020

SUBJECT: **Declaration of State of Emergency Due to Coronavirus**

**WHEREAS**, the Webster County Commission of this 17th day of March 2020, at meeting duly called, noticed, and held, considers the matter of declaring a public health emergency to address the 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19); and

**WHEREAS**, on March 13, 2020 the Governor of Missouri declared a state of emergency exists in the State of Missouri to address the COVID-19 to prevent a substantial risk to public health and safety and on March 15, 2020 the Center for Disease Control and the Governor recommended the cancellation or suspension of public events with more than 50 people; and

**WHEREAS**, COVID-19 can result in mild or severe symptoms with the elderly population and those with serious underlying medical conditions being most at risk from COVID-19, which in some cases may be fatal; and

**WHEREAS**, COVID-19 is highly contagious, and is spread through close contact between persons and respiratory transmission and poses a serious health risk for Webster County residents and visitors; and

**WHEREAS**, any large gathering of persons may accelerate the spread of infection in Webster County, Missouri and pose a risk to the health of our community; and

**WHEREAS**, the continued spread of COVID-19 constitutes a natural calamity and presents an imminent threat of wide-spread illness, which requires emergency action; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Section 192.300 RSMo. And CSR 20-20.050(3), the Webster County Commission and Board of the Webster County Health Unit are authorized to promulgate orders intended to enhance the public health and prevent the entrance of infectious, contagious, communicable, or dangerous diseases, such as COVID-19, into the County, including, among other things, a declaration that a state of emergency exists in Webster County, Missouri, and the exercise of all emergency powers not otherwise in conflict with any rules or regulations authorized by the Department of Health or the Department of Social Services under Chapter 198, RSMo.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, on motion duly made and seconded, and with the advice and consent of the Webster County Prosecuting Attorney and Webster County Sheriff, the question was called and Commissioner Fraker voted "yes", Commission Owens voted "yes", and Presiding Commissioner Ipock voted "yes", to adopt an Order declaring a state of emergency in the unincorporated areas of Webster County effective March 17, 2020 to control the spread of COVID-19 to protect the safety and welfare of the citizens of Webster County, Missouri.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that due to the unique characteristics and the risks associated with the transmission dynamics of COVID-19, the clinical severity of COVID-19, the lack of vaccine or

antivirals as treatment options, the inability to ensure social distancing and to prevent close contact among professional, social, cultural entertainment, or other special events where people are not separated by physical space of a least six (6') feet, it is hereby declared unlawful for any person to organize or attend an intentional gather of 50 people or more in a single space or room. All group events or gatherings of 50 people or more in Webster County, Missouri are prohibited from taking place during the duration of this Order.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that any person who organizes a gathering of 49 people or less shall take appropriate action to minimize risk to the greatest extent possible by implementing and enforcing mitigation measures, including but not limited to, social distancing, limiting the time period of gatherings, frequent cleaning of all surfaces, and posting of signs. This Order shall not apply to educational institutions, daycare facilities, places of employment, grocery stores, retail stores, or any activity a Court of competent jurisdiction holds cannot constitutionally be closed in these specific circumstances.

This Order shall not apply with the city limits of any city municipality within Webster County, Missouri whose Mayor has issued a similar proclamation, resolution, or ordinance addressing the same emergency situation.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that Webster County Health Unit may promulgate such mandatory or advisory rules, policies, and guidance as is necessary and appropriate to implement this Order. Mandatory rules and policies so promulgated shall have the force of law to the greatest extent permitted Federal, State, and County law.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** this state of emergency shall be effective at 5:00 p.m. on March 17, 2020 and shall expire April 6, 2020 to coincide with actions previously taken by area schools. This Order may be extended if necessary, or terminated upon subsequent Order declaring the emergency no longer exists. A copy of this Order shall be filed in the office of the Webster County Clerk before 5:00 p.m. this date and copies of said Order shall be printed and available for distribution to the public in the Office of the County Clerk.

ADOPTED BY THE WEBSTER COUNTY COMMISSION this 17th day of March 2020 at 11:30 o'clock AM.

**WEBSTER COUNTY, MISSOURI**

Paul Ipock  
Paul Ipock, Presiding Commissioner

Randy Owens  
Randy Owens, Southern Commissioner

Dale Fraker  
Dale Fraker, Northern Commissioner

ATTEST:

WEBSTER COUNTY CLERK:

Stanley D. Whitehurst  
Stanley D. Whitehurst, Webster County Clerk

