



CLAY COUNTY

# PUBLIC HEALTH CENTER



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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Clay County Updates Public Health Emergency Order, Issues Mask Requirements

**LIBERTY, Mo. – July 15, 2020** – Beginning Sunday, July 19, the use of face masks will be required in all indoor areas of public accommodation in Clay County. These areas include but are not limited to grocery and retail stores, special events, public transit, and more. A list of exceptions to the mask requirements can be found in the full Public Health Emergency Order. The order is set to remain in place through Sunday, August 23.

“Face masks and physical distancing are the two most effective tools we have at our disposal during this time,” said Director of Public Health Gary E. Zaborac. “These simple actions have been proven to reduce the spread of droplets that can carry COVID-19. We are asking everyone in Clay County to do their part to protect themselves and others in our community, especially the most vulnerable.”

Over the past two weeks, Clay County has seen a 36% increase in active COVID-19 cases. There has also been a 300% increase in COVID-19 hospitalizations in the past 30 days, with the daily average raising from 10 patients hospitalized to 40. There have been a total of 561 cases of COVID-19 reported in Clay County Public Health Center’s jurisdiction and a total of 20 deaths.

“It is critical we take this additional step to require masks in order to slow down increases in cases, to avoid overburdening our healthcare system, and to avoid the disruption to our local economy that would come if we would have to return to stay at home orders,” said Director Zaborac.

More information, including the updated Public Health Emergency Order, can be found at [clayhealth.com/coronavirus](http://clayhealth.com/coronavirus).

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The mission of the Clay County Public Health Center is to deliver the essential public health services of prevention, promotion and protection to the communities of Clay County.