



Barry County, Missouri
Health Department and
Office of Emergency Management
JOINT PRESS RELEASE



Barry County announces Phase 1 reopening rules

The Barry County Commission and the Barry County Health Department as a part of the Barry County Phase 1 Reopening plan and Governor Parson's Show-Me Strong Recovery plan are announcing these rules for the reopening of all businesses in Barry County.

The orders and rules are in effect from May 4 through May 31, 2020. These rules allow businesses to reopen, while mitigating the potential spread of COVID-19 in Barry County. The rules include requirements for physical distancing (sometimes known as Social Distancing), maximum occupancy limits, and source control masking requirements for some service providers. Barry County Health Department Administrator, Roger Brock reminds citizens, "avoiding large gatherings, wearing simple masks and physical distancing remains our best defense to the continued spread of COVID-19.

As we continue our move to reopen businesses and reduce restrictions Barry County will need everyone to do their part to help avoid additional cases of COVID-19. Citizens are encouraged to wear reusable and launderable cloth masks when in public places, cover your cough, practice physical distancing, clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces, and frequently wash hands. At risk individuals including older adults, people with chronic lung conditions, cardiac disease, diabetes, and those who are immunocompromised should continue to limit non-essential travel.

COVID-19 symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. Symptoms include cough, shortness of breath, or at least two of the following symptoms: fever, chills, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, and/or new loss of taste or smell. If you have these symptoms should call their local medical provider to seek testing and treatment. People who feel they might have the virus need to give health care providers a warning so safety precautions can be taken before their arrival to help prevent the infection of health care workers and others at the facility.

David Compton, Director of Barry County Office of Emergency Management, reminds all citizens, it is likely that there continues to be many unknown cases of COVID-19 in our community. Emergency declarations continue to be in effect due to the continued threat of an outbreak of COVID-19 in Barry County. Compton says, "Every citizen must take responsibility for their role in preventing additional cases of COVID-19 in our communities."

The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services is operating a hotline for residents and health care providers to call for information and guidance about COVID-19. The statewide hotline number is **877-435-8411**. The hotline is being operated by medical professionals and is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

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