RALLS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT  
And HOME HEALTH AGENCY  
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ORDER OF THE RALLS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT 

ORDER NO. 20-01 

STAY AT HOME ORDER, ISSUED ON APRIL 10, 2020 

WHEREAS, the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is considered an infectious, highly contagious communicable and dangerous disease and on March 11, 2020 was declared by the World Health Organization to be a pandemic; and 

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 virus spreads between people who are in close contact with one another through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes; and 

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020 the President of the United States declared the outbreak of COVID-19 in the United States a national emergency and the Governor of the State of Missouri declared a state of emergency within the State of Missouri; and 

WHEREAS, a gathering of individuals without necessary mitigation for the spread of infection may pose a risk of the spread of infectious disease; and 

WHEREAS, the Health Department wishes to employ all means available under the law to protect public life, health, safety and property to limit the development, contraction and spread of COVID-19 creating this emergency; and 

WHEREAS, pursuant to Sections 192.280 and 192.300 RSMo and Missouri Code of State Regulations 19 CSR 20-20.040, the County Health Director/County Health Official to take certain actions to enhance public health and prevent and mitigate the entrance of communicable diseases into Ralls County, including the authority to prevent the assembly of persons within Ralls County and closing of non-essential businesses. 

NOW, THEREFORE, it is hereby ORDERED by the Ralls County Health Department as follows: 

Article 1. Effective date and applicability
This order shall be effective 12:01 a.m. on April 10, 2020 and will continue to be in effect until 11:59 p.m. on April 30, 2020 or until it is extended, rescinded, supersede or amended in writing by further order.

Article 2. Intent. By enacting this Order, it is the express intent to ensure that the maximum number of people stay at home to slow the spread of COVID-19 within Ralls County while enabling essential services to continue. All provisions of this Order shall be interpreted to effectuate this intent.

Article 3. Stay at Home; Cessation of Non-Essential Business and Operations

Section 3.01. Stay at Home or place of residence. All individuals currently living within Ralls County are ordered to stay at home or at their place of residence except as allowed in this Order. All persons may leave their home or place of residence or if visiting Ralls County as non-resident only for Essential Activities, Essential Governmental functions, or to operate Essential Businesses and Operations as all defined below.

To the extent individuals are using shared or outdoor spaces when outside their residence, they must at all times as much as reasonable possible, must adhere to Social Distancing Requirements.

Section 3.02. Non-essential business and operations must cease. All businesses and operations in Ralls County, except Essential Businesses and Operations are required to cease all activities except Minimum Basic Operations as defined below. All businesses are allowed to maintain the value of inventory and infrastructure, provide security, process payroll or employee benefits, or facilitate employees working remotely. For clarity, businesses may also continue operations consisting exclusively of employees or contractors performing activities at their own residence (i.e., working from home).

Restaurants and retail food establishments that normally prepare and serve food and beverages for on-site consumption are prohibited from conducting any dine-in food service; however, such businesses may provide pickup, drive-through, or delivery services so long as such business otherwise complies with this Order. The goal is to prevent congregation of patrons and maintain physical distancing requirements.

All essential Businesses and Operations are encouraged to remain open. To the greatest extent feasible, Essential Businesses and Operations shall comply with Physical Distancing Requirements.

No business or person may operate or engage in a Prohibited Activity.

Section 3.03. Prohibited activities. All public and private intentional gathering of any number of people occurring outside a single household or living unit are prohibited, except for the limited purposes permitted by the Order. Any intentional gathering of more than ten (10) people in a single space or room is prohibited unless exempted by this Order. Nothing in this Order prohibits the gathering of members of a household or residence of individuals who reside in such residence.
All public parks and open outdoor recreation areas are encouraged to remain open. Because playgrounds may increase the spread of COVID-19, all indoor and outdoor playgrounds shall be closed with appropriate notices posted. All places of public amusement, whether indoors or outdoors, including but not limited to country clubs, social and athletic clubs shall be closed to the public.

Section 3.04. Leaving the home for Essential Activities is permitted. For purposes of this Order, individuals may leave their residence for Essential Travel only to perform Essential Activities, as defined below, which are specifically related to health and safety, the procurement of necessary supplies and services, for outdoor activity, for certain types of work and to care for others. When engaging in any outdoor activity, individuals must comply with Physical Distancing Requirements.

Public transit shall be used only for purpose of performing Essential Activities or to travel to and from work. People using public transit must comply with Physical Distancing Requirements.

This order allows travel into or out of Ralls County to perform Essential Activities, operate Essential Businesses, or maintain Essential Governmental Functions or Minimum Basic Operations.

Section 3.05. School and Social Services Providing Food. Schools and other entities that ordinarily provide food services to students or members of the public may continue to do so under this Order provided that the food is provided to students or members of the public on a delivery or pick-up and take-away basis only. Schools and other entities, other than childcare facilities, that provide food services under this paragraph shall not permit the food to be eaten on site.

Section 3.06. Exemptions. All first responders, emergency management personnel, emergency dispatchers, court personnel law enforcement personnel, and school personnel operating at the direction of administrator designation, and others working for or to support Essential Businesses are categorically exempt from this Order. Further, nothing in this Order shall prohibit any individual from performing or accessing “Essential Governmental Functions.” Essential Government Functions means all services needed to ensure the continuing operation of any government agencies, including schools, and provide for the health, safety and welfare of the public. All Essential Governmental Functions should be performed in compliance with Social Distancing Requirements as defined in this Section, to the extent possible.

Section 3.07. Access to Essential Governmental Functions. Nothing in this Order shall prohibit any individual from performing or accessing Essential Governmental Functions.

Article 4. Definitions

For purposes of this Order, the following terms will have the meaning ascribed to them:
1. "Essential Activities," shall mean:

To engage in activities or perform tasks essential to the health and safety, or to the health and safety of their family or household members (including, but not limited to, pets), or close

i. personal acquaintances, such as, by way of example only and without limitation, obtaining medical supplies or medication, visiting a health care professional, or obtaining supplies they need to work from home;

ii. To obtain necessary services or supplies for themselves and their family or household members, or close personal acquaintances, or to deliver those services or supplies to others, such as, by way of example only and without limitation, canned food, dry goods, fresh fruits and vegetables, pet supply, fresh meats, fish, and poultry, and any other household consumer products, and products necessary to maintain the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of residences;

iii. To engage in outdoor activity, provided the individuals comply with Social Distancing Requirements as defined in this Section, such as, by way of example and without limitation, biking, walking, hiking, or running;

iv. To perform work providing essential products and services at an Essential Business or to otherwise carry out activities specifically permitted in this Order, including Minimum Basic Operations, as defined infra, at Non-Essential Businesses; and

v. To care for a family member, close personal acquaintance, or pet in another household.

vi. Essential Activities do not include weddings, funerals, wakes, memorial services, or similar gatherings, however, outdoor memorial services consisting of immediate family are permitted to the extent that the participants comply with Social Distancing Requirements.

2. "Essential Businesses" means any for-profit, non-profit, or educational entities, regardless its corporate or entity structure and includes:

i. Healthcare Operations and Essential Infrastructure;

ii. Essential Government Functions;
iii. Grocery stores, farmers’ markets, farm and produce stands, markets, food banks, convenience stores, and other establishments engaged in the retail sale of canned food, dry goods, fresh fruits and vegetables, pet supply, fresh meats, fish, and poultry, and any other household consumer products (such as cleaning and personal care products). This includes stores that sell groceries and also sell other non-grocery products, and products necessary to maintaining the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of residences and persons:

iv. Food cultivation, including farming, livestock, and fishing;

v. Human and animal food processing facility workers;

vi. Businesses that provide food, shelter, and social services, and other necessities of life for economically disadvantaged or otherwise needy individuals;

vii. Newspapers, television, radio, and other media services;

viii. Gas stations and auto-supply, auto-repair, and related facilities;

ix. Banks and related financial institutions;

x. Hardware stores;

xi. Plumbers, electricians, exterminators, cemetery workers, undertakers, and other service providers who provide services that are necessary to maintaining the safety, sanitation and essential operation of residences, Essential Activities, and Essential Businesses;

xii. Businesses providing mailing and shipping services, including post office boxes;

xiii. Educational institutions – including public and private K-12 schools, colleges, and universities – for purposes of facilitating distance learning or performing essential functions related to distance learning and provision of other services related student welfare, including but not
limited to food provision and delivery, provided that social distancing of six-feet per person is maintained to the greatest extent possible;

xiv. Laundromats, dry cleaners, and laundry service providers;

xv. Railroads and rail systems;

xvi. Restaurants and other facilities that prepare and serve food and drink, but only for delivery, drive-through or curbside pick-up. Schools and other entities that typically provide free food services to students or members of the public may continue to do so under this Order on the condition that the food is provided to students or members of the public on an outdoor pick-up and take-away basis only. Schools and other entities that provide food

xvii. Services under this exemption shall not permit the food or drink to be consumed at the site where it is provided, or at any other gathering site;

xviii. Businesses that supply products needed for people to work from home;

xix. Businesses that supply other essential businesses with the support or supplies necessary to operate;

xx. Businesses that ship or deliver groceries, food, goods or services directly to residences;

xxi. Airlines, taxis, and other private transportation providers providing transportation services necessary for Essential Activities and other purposes expressly authorized in this Order, as well as transportation maintenance services such as mechanics necessary to keep transportation services operational;

xxii. Home-base care for seniors, adults, or children;

xxiii. Residential facilities and shelters for seniors, adults, and children;
xxiv. Professional services, such as legal or accounting services, when necessary to assist in compliance with legally mandated activities;

xxv. Childcare facilities providing services that enable employees exempted in this Order to work as permitted. To the extent possible, childcare facilities should operate under the following conditions;

1. Childcare should be carried out in stable groups, preferable with 10 or fewer ("stable" means that the same 10 or fewer children are in the same group each day);
2. Children should not change from one group to another;
3. If more than one group of children is care for at one facility, each group should be in a separate room. Groups should not mix with each other; and
4. Childcare providers should remain solely with one group of children;

xxvi. Blood services operations which includes blood drives, manufacturing and distribution activities.

3. “Essential Infrastructure” shall mean to include, but not be limited to, public works construction, construction of housing, airport operations water, sewer, gas, electrical, oil refining, railroad and rail systems, roads and highways, public transportation, solid waste collection and removal, internet, and telecommunications systems (including the provision of essential infrastructure for computing services, business infrastructure, communications, and web-based services), provided that they carry out those services or that work in compliance with Social Distancing Requirements as defined in this Section, to the extent possible.

4. “Healthcare Operations” shall include hospitals, clinics, dentists, pharmacies, pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies, other healthcare facilities, healthcare suppliers, home health care service providers, mental health providers, or any related and/or ancillary healthcare services. “Healthcare Operations” also includes veterinary care and all healthcare services provided to animals. This exemption shall be construed broadly to avoid any impacts to the delivery of healthcare, broadly defined. “Healthcare Operations” does not include fitness and exercise gyms and similar facilities.

5. “Essential Government Functions” means all services needed to ensure the continuing operation of federal, state, or local government departments, offices, agencies, officials, political subdivisions, entities created by intergovernmental
agreement, essential court functions as determined by the Presiding Judge or the Presiding Judge’s designee, and any other government functions necessary to provide for the health, safety, and welfare of the public;

6. “Minimum Basic Operations” includes the following, provided that employees comply with Social Distancing Requirements as defined in this Section, to the extent possible, while carrying out such operations:

   i. The minimum necessary activities to maintain the value of the business’s inventory and facilities, ensure security, process payroll and employee benefits, or for related functions; and

   ii. The minimum necessary activities to facilitate employees of the business being able to continue to work remotely from their residences, place of rest, or elsewhere.

7. “Social Distancing Requirements” includes maintaining at least six-foot physical distancing from other individuals, washing hands with soap and water for at least twenty seconds as frequently as possible or using hand sanitizer, regularly cleaning high-touch surfaces, and not shaking hands.

Article 5. Enforcement; Severability

Section 5.01. Application with other laws. Unless otherwise specially provided or suspended in this Order, any order of the Ralls County Health Department, or any Executive Order, this Order shall not supplant, supersede, replace, rescind, amend or modify any other law, ordinance, rule, regulations, or permit condition or requirement, including but not limited to those that may apply to Essential Business or Essential Activities.

Regulated Activities: To the fullest extent allowed by law, the following restrictions are imposed:

1. Individuals may leave their residence or place of rest only to undertake Essential Activities or to provide any services or perform any work necessary to the operations and maintenance of Essential Business, Essential Infrastructure, Healthcare Operations, Minimum Basic Operations, or other enumerated exempted categories as prescribed by City Order or other prevailing law.

2. Individuals at high risk of severe illness from COVID-19 and those who are sick are urged to stay in their residence except as necessary to seek medical care.
3. Individuals shall not visit nursing home, long-term care facilities, retirement homes, or assisted living homes unless to provide critical assistance.

Section 5.02. Enforcement. Violation of any provision of this Order constitutes an imminent threat, creates an immediate menace to public health, and shall be considered a violation of Section 192.320, RSMo. Violation of or failure to comply with this Order is a Class A misdemeanor punishable by up to one-year in jail, up to a $1000 fine, or both such jail time and fine.

Section 5.03. No Conflict with State Order. This Public Health Emergency Order shall not be construed nor operate to conflict with any applicable order issued by the Missouri Governor and/or the Director of the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services.

Section 5.04. Effective Date and Time. This Order will begin at 12:01 a.m. Friday, April 10, 2020 and expire on 11:59 p.m. on Thursday, April 30, 2020 unless and until it is extended, rescinded, superseded, or amended in writing. Upon its effective date and time, all previous orders are repealed.

IT IS SO ORDERED THIS 10th DAY OF APRIL, 2020

Tanya Taylor, BS, Administrator
Ralls County Health Department Administrator
Ralls County Health Official

Eddie Joe Hamill, Board Chairman
Ralls County Health Department Board of Trustees

The following signatures are in support of the Stay at Home issued under the authority of Tanya Taylor, BS, the Ralls County Health Department Administrator/County Health Official for the County of Ralls.
Wiley Hibbard  
Presiding Commissioner

John Lake  
Western District Commissioner

R.C. Harlow  
Eastern District Commissioner

Eric Murfin  
County Emergency Management Director