

Public Health Order 2020-05 FAQ

Questions about order 2020-05

How is this order different from the previous order?

With this order, Columbia and Boone County are beginning the slow reopening phase. Most non-essential businesses will be able to begin reopening, with occupancy limits, while maintaining social distancing.

Will churches and religious services be allowed?

Churches, religious services and other spiritual practices can resume, provided social distancing requirements are maintained and that building occupancy adheres to the following standards based on the building's fire code occupancy:

- For smaller locations (less than 10,000 square feet), they must maintain 25 percent or less of the authorized occupancy.
- For larger locations (10,000 square feet or greater), they must maintain 10 percent or less of the authorized occupancy.

Will in-seat dining be allowed under this order?

Yes. Most businesses, including restaurants, will be allowed to open with the following occupancy limits.

- For smaller locations (less than 10,000 square feet), they must maintain 25 percent or less of the authorized occupancy.
- For larger locations (10,000 square feet or greater), they must maintain 10 percent or less of the authorized occupancy.

Employees at the facility are not included in this calculation and do not count toward occupancy limitations.

Bar seating will be closed under this order.

What about personal care services such as barber shops, hair salons, massage therapists, etc.?

All businesses providing personal care services shall require employees to wear a mask or cloth face covering while providing services for which physical distancing is not possible and shall require customers, to the extent possible while receiving the service, to wear a mask or cloth face covering.

These services may only be performed with 10 or fewer people in a single location or a maximum of 50% occupancy for the location, whichever is less, including both employees and customers, (e.g. 5 hairstylists providing services to 5 customers), with at least six feet distance between different customers receiving services.

Why are personal care services facilities only being allowed 10 people or less, when other retail businesses can have twenty-five percent?

Due to the nature of these businesses, social distancing during service delivery is not possible, and it is not always possible to wear masks or cloth face coverings. The limit of 10 people or less is designed to improve the odds of successful contact tracing should a COVID-19 case be identified in an employee or customer of these businesses, and to allow more opportunities to clean and disinfect between customers.

Will swimming pools be allowed to open?

Swimming pools will be allowed to open under certain conditions. All pools must provide a plan for disinfection and monitoring to PHHS prior to their opening inspection.

Swimming pools monitored by an attendant will be required to maintain social distance by staying at least six feet away from each other at all times. It is the attendant's responsibility to ensure social distancing is maintained.

Pools that are not monitored by an attendant cannot have more than 10 people at the pool at any one time.

Which businesses must remain closed?

All entertainment venues, bars and playgrounds will remain closed at this time. This includes bowling alleys, arcades, bingo halls, movie theaters, adult entertainment, axe throwing, breakout rooms, trampoline parks, mini golf, hot tubs and all contact sports.

Can I gather with family and friends outside of my home?

This order limits both public and private gathering to 10 people. However, you should avoid socializing in groups that do not readily allow for appropriate physical distancing. When visiting with anyone outside of your household, individuals should maximize physical distance from others. Vulnerable individuals are encouraged to limit visitors and maintain physical distancing to the greatest extent possible.

What if a business is not doing what they should to keep employees and customers safe?

To report noncompliance with the public health order, call 573-874-CITY (2489) or email city@CoMo.gov.

If I'm currently working from home, should I continue doing so?

Employees who are able to work from home, should continue to work from home. Special considerations should be given to employees who fall in the high risk category.

What does this mean for graduation ceremonies?

At this time, graduation ceremonies and all intentional gatherings or gathering places not specified in the order are limited to 10 people. This includes both public and private gatherings.

What order do I follow, the state order or the local order?

The statewide order establishes the minimum requirements. Local health authorities may enforce more restrictive public health requirements. Therefore, you must follow the local order, as well.

How will this order be enforced?

Enforcement will be based on findings of routine inspections and following up on complaints. Failure to comply with this order is punishable by fine, imprisonment, or both.

When will this order expire?

In order to ensure the necessary health and safety triggers are being met before moving into the next step of reopening, this order will remain in effect until it is rescinded or modified in writing by the Public Health Director.

I have a question that isn't covered by this FAQ. How can I get an answer?

We encourage everyone to review the Order in its entirety. If that does not resolve your question, please email coronavirus@como.gov for general questions. If you are a business with questions about operating requirements, please email businessguidance@como.gov

Can I travel during this order?

It is strongly recommended that all nonessential travel be limited until further notice. If you travel to an area where there is high community transmission, you may be asked to quarantine for 14 days after you arrive back in Boone County.

What does a business do if a customer or employee tests positive for COVID-19?

For most retail businesses and customer interactions, the risk of transmission is minimal. However, if a customer or employee of a personal care business, such as barber shops, salons or massage therapists were to test positive, other customers or employees of the business may be considered close contacts. If employees and/or customers are identified as a close contact, they would be notified by the contact investigation team at Public Health and Human Services and placed in quarantine for a period of time (up to 14 days).

Questions about the Road to Reopening plan**What should I do if I'm vulnerable to COVID-19?**

While easing of physical distancing and reopening of businesses is taking place, highly vulnerable populations, such as individuals older than age 65 and those with compromised immune systems or compromised lung and heart function, should continue to engage in physical distancing to the greatest extent possible until a vaccine or effective treatment is available. Long-term care facilities must maintain high levels of infection prevention and control effectors and not allow visitors to prevent outbreaks. Vulnerable individuals are encouraged to not allow visitors and maintain physical distancing to the greatest extent possible.

With businesses reopening, will we still need to maintain physical and social distance?

Yes. Social distancing is still a requirement. Businesses will be provided guidance on how to facilitate social distancing in their facilities and operations.

What can I do as the customer to stay safe when visiting a business?

The best way to keep yourself and others safe is to stay at home as much as possible. This will limit your potential exposure to others and the virus that causes COVID-19. Order & pay online or over the phone when possible. Utilize contact-free delivery or curbside pickup when possible. If you must visit physical locations, the CDC currently recommends the use of a cloth mask when social distancing is not possible. Remember to wash your hands after touching surfaces, especially before touching your face.

How do you know if Boone County is ready to move to the next phase of reopening?

There are five triggers that had to be met before moving into this slow reopening phase.

- A sustained reduction in cases for at least 14 days
- Hospitals are able to treat all patients with COVID-19 without crisis standards of care
- All symptomatic people can be tested
- Public health can maintain active case and contact isolation and monitoring
- Planning effective public health interventions for employees and the public is completed by individual businesses, buildings and indoor public spaces

We evaluate that these triggers have been met, however, this plan allows for reinstating restrictions if any of these conditions worsen.

In order to determine when we are ready to advance to the *next* step in this process, we must wait a minimum of three to four weeks. That will allow one to two virus incubation periods and allow public health officials to determine if local cases remain on the decline.

How long until I can have a big gathering such as a party, bbq, or wedding?

The timeline for moving between the steps in the reopening plan depend on the progress of slowing the spread of COVID-19 in Columbia, Boone County and the Mid-Missouri region. To allow for the virus's incubation period, there will be at least three to four weeks between each step of reopening the community, however, if the number of cases begins to increase, it could take significantly longer.

What happens if we see a spike in cases in Boone County after we move into this first step of this reopening phase?

It is possible that restrictions will be reinstated if cases start rapidly increasing. PHHS will amend the latest health order to reflect those restrictions.