



News Release

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For Immediate Release:

Rolla Opens for Business! (with restrictions)

At the May 4th City Council meeting the Rolla City Council enacted an emergency ordinance that allows all businesses to open – a week earlier than previously in place. Rolla’s original “Stay-at-Home” order was adopted on March 30th and authorized “essential activities” and distinguished between “essential and non-essential businesses”. The newly adopted ordinance which takes effect immediately allows all businesses to resume operations with some restrictions.

COVID-19 has had a significant impact on most business clusters but the tourism, entertainment and personal care services have been significantly impacted. The City’s new ordinance allows restaurants, bars and eating establishments to resume limited sit-down dining but encourages continued use of curbside and delivery options. Bar seating is prohibited and 6’ spacing is required between all dining and socializing areas. Similarly personal care services such as massage therapy, hairdressers, barbershops, and tanning and nail salons are allowed to resume services. Since 6’ safe distancing is not feasible in most personal care services the employees/service providers are required to wear masks. In addition scheduled appointments is required and a limit of 3 persons are allowed in lobby and waiting areas.

The intent of the City’s new ordinance is to maintain the health and safety of all citizens, especially the most vulnerable, while allowing all businesses to open safely. Specifically all businesses are required to:

- a) Maximize social distancing between employees, employees and customers, and customers
- b) Provide hand-sanitizing stations for employees and customers at entrances and in high volume areas
- c) Ensure frequent cleaning of high-traffic areas and high-touch items like doors, credit card machines

- d) Run daily temperature and wellness checks on all employees
- e) Develop a disease preparedness and response plan for employee health and customer contract-tracing

Despite the easing of restrictions the ordinance still emphasizes personal responsibility on citizens and businesses to maintain the safe distance practices and guidelines issued by the CDC to protect healthcare workers and first responders, to look out for our most vulnerable and at-risk populations, and to mitigate the risk of a resurgence this summer or fall when thousands of visitors and University students converge on the Community. Rolla and Phelps County have been very fortunate to see very few cases of COVID-19, but that success was largely attributable to the personal responsibility of citizens to quarantine themselves and to only engage in essential activity. Similarly the wearing of masks has become much more commonplace -- all of these efforts help ensure a safe, vibrant community.

In closing don't forget to continue following the CDC guidelines - "Follow the Five":

Hands – wash them often

Elbow – cough into it

Face – do not touch it

Feet – stay more than 6 ft. from anyone

Feel – sick ? Stay home

Stay well!