



News Release

901 North Elm Street
Rolla, MO 65401

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Contact: John Butz,
City Administrator
573-426-6948 (work)
jbutz@rollacity.org (e-mail)
www.rollacity.org

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[City to Host Public Hearing on New COVID Restrictions](#)

In response to a significant rise in COVID-19 positive cases and hospitalizations in Rolla/Phelps County the Rolla City Council will hold a special meeting and public hearing at 6 p.m. Monday, November 23 at the Rolla Public Schools Administration Building (Rolla Technical Center), 500 Forum Drive (Rm 134). The meeting venue has been moved from City Hall to provide more safe-spacing for participants while being able to broadcast the meeting on Fidelity Ch. 16 and YouTube.

Since re-opening the Community in May 2020 the City has imposed few restrictions on individuals and businesses relying more on health awareness and on individual decisions to minimize the spread of the virus. Even with the return of in-person schooling at RPS and S&T the City and County fared reasonably well this summer and autumn with the exception of a few outbreaks and regretfully significant impacts at local nursing homes. Since late October positive cases and hospitalizations have risen significantly resulting in an appeal from Phelps Health and the Phelps County Health Department for extraordinary support from the community.

At the November 16th City Council Meeting Mayor Louis Magdits announced the appointment of a COVID Task Force to explore more aggressive mitigation strategies that could include mandatory facial coverings (mask mandate) and/or occupancy restrictions on businesses, special events and public/private gatherings.

Special precautions will be imposed at the upcoming public meeting at the RPS Administration Building including limited and spaced seating, face coverings for all participants, and overflow staging areas for citizens wishing to speak. Public comments will be limited to three minutes. Extra security will be present to maintain a peaceful exchange and to allow everyone an opportunity to be heard. As this is a School facility no weapons are allowed in the building.