

## Public Safety Alert!

April 3, 2020  
Osage County, Missouri  
Susan Long  
Health Department

Good afternoon. This is Susan Long with the Osage County Health Department in Linn, MO. Yesterday, on Facebook Livestream, I announced that I had signed a "Stay at Home" Order for Osage County, Missouri which will begin today at 5pm and last through May 1<sup>st</sup> at 5pm. This can be changed as needed. This was not an easy decision to make and I did discuss this with the 3 County Commissioners, Law Enforcement, the County Prosecuting Attorney, and the County Emergency Management Director and listened to pros and cons before the Order was signed.

I had asked people to read the entire document before contacting the Health Department, 911 or the Sheriff's Office and I want to thank everyone who did read it AND who took the time to share it with others who don't have access to the internet. Most of the questions and comments have been thoughtful and insightful which reassures me that people are taking this serious and they understand and want to respect the Order.

I want to **NOW** focus on what you can do while this order is in place.

Essential businesses and activities can continue.

People are encouraged to go outside and enjoy the Spring weather, mow your lawns, do yardwork, plant flowers and vegetables, if you're ready to do so.

Your immediate household can sit outside and BBQ. Remember the limit of 9 or less.

Do errands for those who need help while you're going to the store or pharmacy. If you are going to the store, try to limit to one person going into the business and go with a list and get out quickly.

Its okay to take the family on a drive. You can go to a park (the playground equipment is off-limits due to the potential to spread the virus). Keep social distancing from other family groups who might be there also.

Go fishing. If you see a few buddies at the same spot though, keep your distance.

Ride your bike. Maintain the social distancing.

Youth turkey season is scheduled for tomorrow. With much discussion, it was decided that due to the separation involved, this would be okay since it is outside and the space in the blinds is very small.

Find out what your church is doing to provide ministry to the congregation. Faith IS important. I'm hearing some really great ideas on people staying in their cars in the church parking lot while the minister provides services from outside. Or drive by communion! What wonderful substitutions in addition to internet access to church services online!

Again, there are indoor things also if the weather is not great. It's Spring. Do some Spring cleaning!

Take an online class. Watch a TED talk on YouTube! Watch an old movie you haven't seen since you were a kid.

Put the phone down AND talk to your family or household member!

Call someone who is by themselves! This time is hard on them, too!

Exercise! OR meditate! Now what can you think of in addition to this list! Enjoy life and enjoy this time with your family! We are all so busy that it's hard to do that most of the time.

Next week is Public Health Week! My thanks to the Osage County Health Department staff! You are much loved and respected and I want to acknowledge you and your families as you have sacrificed so much during these last 2 months in preparing for this COVID event. Tessa, Kim, Elisha, Dianna, Vicki and Toni. You are a remarkable group of women!

Thank you for your time! Have a good, safe, and healthy weekend!