

# Osage County Health Department

205 E. Main Street, Linn, MO 65051  
Ph: 573-897-3103; Fax: 573-897-4915

August 11, 2020

An Open Letter to Landlords, businesses and students,


As we welcome the anticipated 1,900 students plus the faculty and staff to State Technical College, it is important for all of us to remember that an ADVISORY continues in place for Osage County through September 1<sup>st</sup> if not longer. This is available for review on the Osage County website for review. The health department has been working with numerous community partners since the very early start of the COVID outbreak including the college, public and parochial schools as well as social service agencies, government agencies, first responders, churches and businesses to ensure the health of everyone who lives, plays, works or visits Osage County. We have seen an increase in the number of cases with more contacts here in the county and I have as much concern for the students possibly contracting the virus here as bringing it here with them. Having said that, I am asking all businesses and landlords, whether for single-family homes renting out rooms to students, the dorms on campus or student housing off of campus, to post reminders about the importance of social distancing and use of masks if more than 6 feet distancing in public areas cannot be maintained. It is also important to know your heating and cooling system. As this is an air-borne disease, it is possible to spread throughout common heating and air conditioning systems thereby exposing everyone in a building which might have a common HVAC system. It would be best to consult with your HVAC system specialist to determine this, if you are unsure. This could mean the difference between the health department quarantining a single person in a room or apartment versus quarantining an entire building of people for up to 2 weeks.

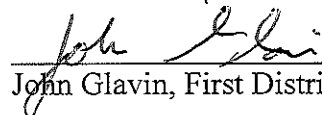
It is also important to increase your cleaning and disinfecting of common areas as this virus, once it falls down, can remain alive on hard surfaces such as countertops, tabletops, phones, keyboards, cell phones, door knobs and faucet handles. Delivery and curbside pickup are good alternatives to having anyone coming into your place of business and I strongly recommend requiring masks and social distancing within your business or establishment. We can provide signage on COVID prevention measures at your request to post around your building/business. Please contact us by calling directly at 573-897-3103 or by emailing us at:

[Osagecountyhealthdepartment@gmail.com](mailto:Osagecountyhealthdepartment@gmail.com) for more information or to request signage.

With a little cooperation on everyone's part and occasional reminders, we can minimize the impact of the COVID-19 virus on the health and well-being of people and businesses alike.

Thank you for your efforts on behalf of the health of Osage County,

  
Susan Long, RN, BSN, Administrator

  
John Glavin, First District Commissioner

  
Darryl Griffin, Presiding Commissioner

  
Larry Klierhermes, Second District commissioner



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Services provided on a nondiscriminatory basis