

A RESOLUTION

ratifying Order 2020-10 issued by the Health Director and authorizing the Health Director to extend the effective date of Order 2020-10 for a period of time greater than twenty-one (21) days.

WHEREAS, the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is considered an infectious, highly contagious communicable and dangerous disease and on March 11, 2020 was declared by the World Health Organization to be a pandemic; and

WHEREAS, due to the COVID-19 pandemic there have been declarations of emergency enacted by the President of the United States, the Governor of the State of Missouri and the City of Columbia; and

WHEREAS, ensuring adequate healthcare resources exist within the community to promptly identify, isolate and care for individuals exposed to COVID-19 and respond to any anticipated surge in required healthcare services due to COVID-19 while maintaining adequate care for other patients is critical to the health, safety and well-being of the public; and

WHEREAS, case investigation and contact tracing conducted under the direction of the local health department is an integral part of a multipronged approach to contain the spread of the virus; and

WHEREAS, the Health Director, as the Local Health Authority, has issued prior Orders that have resulted in a decline of the number of COVID-19 cases in the City of Columbia and on May 4, 2020 began a slow reopening of the local economy with Order 2020-05, which generally provided for 25% occupancy for businesses while continuing to limit intentional gatherings to 10 persons and requiring social distancing between employees at all establishments; and

WHEREAS, on May 26, 2020 Phase 2 Step 2 of the reopening plan was implemented through Order 2020-06 which generally authorized 50% occupancy of businesses and increased the size of intentional gatherings to 50 persons; and

WHEREAS, on June 23, 2020 Phase 2 Step 3 of the reopening plan went into effect under Order 2020-07 generally authorizing most businesses to reopen with implementation of social distancing requirements and limiting large gatherings to 100 persons with certain exceptions allowed if the business could provide an operational plan to ensure public safety; and

WHEREAS, the number of identified active COVID-19 cases in Boone County increased from 21 active cases on May 26, 2020 to 231 active cases on July 8, 2020 causing the Director to extend Phase 2 Step 3 of the reopening plan pursuant to Order 2020-08; and

WHEREAS, based on continued increase of new case rates and a seven (7) day rolling new case rate for the period of July 29, 2020 through August 4, 2020 at 106 cases per 100,000, the Director modified Phase 2 Step 3 of the reopening plan in Order 2020-09 to include the requirement to wear a face mask under certain conditions; and

WHEREAS, the University of Missouri student population began its on campus move-in on August 17, 2020 with in-person classwork resuming on August 24, 2020. Stephens College began in-person classes on August 25, 2020, with residential students returning to campus for move-in and orientation between August 16 and 24, 2020. Columbia College began its move-in and orientation on August 28-30, 2020 with in-person classes beginning on August 31, 2020. The number of students resuming higher education coursework in the City exceeds 30,000; and

WHEREAS, since August 17, 2020 Boone County has experienced a steady increase in COVID-19 daily cases with the new daily cases reported on August 27, 2020 as of 4:00 pm being 83 with the total number of active cases being 502. The average number of active cases in the 18- 22 age bracket increased over 220% in the seven days ending on August 27, 2020 compared to the previous seven (7) day period. The positivity rate on new tests conducted from August 20, 2020 through August 26, 2020 was 36.1%. The number of hospitalizations within Boone County increased from 27 on August 17, 2020 to 43 on August 27, 2020; and

WHEREAS, there are numerous reports, photographs and other evidence of persons who appear to be in the 18 to 24 age range gathering in large groups without observing social distancing measures or wearing masks at establishments serving alcohol late in the evening, which has been shown to contribute to the rapid and uncontrolled spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on August 28, 2020 the Director determined that due to the continued influx of new cases it was necessary to continue to pause the reopening plan with certain modifications in order to allow the resources for contact tracing and exposure notification to be able to address the community spread of the disease and to ensure the capacity of other local resources is adequate to meet the increased need; and

WHEREAS, on August 28, 2020 the Director entered Order 2020-10 which placed limitations on the hours of operation of restaurants, bars and entertainment venues as well as reduced the size of intentional gatherings for venues without an approved operational plan to a maximum of twenty (20) persons; and

WHEREAS, Section 11-98 of the City Code requires any order issued by the Director which is in effect form more than twenty-one (21) days to be ratified by the Council; and

WHEREAS, due to the continuing impact of the COVID-19 disease on the health, safety and well-being of the community, the City Council finds it is in the best interest of the citizens of the City of Columbia and for the preservation of public health and safety to ratify Order 2020-10 and authorize the Director to extend Order 2020-10 for a period of time greater than twenty-one (21) days.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBIA, MISSOURI, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. The City Council makes and reaffirms the findings set forth above and incorporates the same by reference as if fully set forth herein.

SECTION 2. The City Council hereby ratifies Order 2020-10 issued by the Health Director on August 28, 2020 and further authorizes the Director to extend such order for a period of time greater than twenty-one (21) days as determined in the sole discretion of the Director to be in the best interest of the health, safety and welfare of the City of Columbia, Missouri.

ADOPTED this _____ day of _____, 2020.

ATTEST:

City Clerk

Mayor and Presiding Officer

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

City Counselor