



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.
City of St. Joseph
Health Department

P R E S S R E L E A S E

City of St. Joseph Health Department
904 South 10th Street, St. Joseph, MO 64503

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March 23, 2020

CITY OF ST. JOSEPH HEALTH DEPARTMENT TAKES MEASURES TO REDUCE EXPOSURE

Effective 8:00 a.m., Tuesday, March 24, until further notice, the City of St. Joseph Health Department and Social Welfare Board (SWB), at Patee Market Health Center, 904 South 10th Street, will close to public access to ensure proper social distancing and help reduce the spread of virus. All services throughout the building will be administered by appointment only, and many services will be suspended until further notice. Those who currently have an appointment for services will be contacted, either to reschedule or to notify of service delivery modification. Please contact the health department if you have concerns related to our services at 816-271-4636 and contact Social Welfare Board at 816-233-5188.

The health department WIC clinic will continue to serve clients by appointment, service delivery will be adjusted. Birth and death certificate delivery will also be adjusted. Immunization services will be suspended as will other clinic functions such as case management, TB testing, and others. Community health division has suspended all health education and outreach activities, and currently scheduled sexually transmitted infection (STI) testing and treatment appointment holders will be contacted.

Environmental health staff will continue to offer guidance to restaurants, childcare facilities, and others as they modify operations. Animal Control and Rescue will continue to respond to high priority and emergency calls, injured or sick stray animals, and cruelty or neglect concerns. The shelter will be closed to the public, which includes the processing of adoptions and of owner relinquishments. Stray pets may be claimed by appointment only, call 816-271-4877.

Social Welfare Board's Westside Clinic will reduce services to minimal STI treatment appointments and medication refills. SWB Dental will only see patients with emergencies, and by appointment only. New immigration physicals are suspended. Three-month follow up appointments may be postponed, appointment holders will be contacted. All medication refills will be ready for patient pick-up. Those seeking medical care will be asked to wait in their cars or a designated place in the clinic.

As radical changes to daily operations are being implemented, it is with the greater good of our community in mind. Everyone is being asked to make sacrifices and to consider the impact of their actions on themselves, their family and co-workers, and the community at large. We can all do more to prevent the spread of disease by adhering to following to the guidelines:

- Implement social distancing measures for yourself and those you can influence
 - With "influence" in mind, be thoughtful with social media posts and do not promote or post statements that are untrue or may incite panic
- Wash your hands frequently and thoroughly
- Comply with the shelter in place order by staying home unless it is necessary to venture out (work, food, provisions, medical care)
- Stay home and away from others if you feel sick
- Call ahead to your medical provider if you are seeking medical care, especially if you have symptoms of coronavirus (fever, cough, tiredness, difficulty breathing)
- Do not share personal care items or eating utensils and drinkware
- Clean and sanitize high-touch surfaces at home, in your vehicle, and at work

These are unprecedented times for all of us and we appreciate the cooperation and assistance of the community as we work through these evolving circumstances. Please contact the health department if you have concerns related to our services at 816-271-4636. Contact Social Welfare Board at 816-233-5188. You may also call the City of St. Joseph COVID-19 Call Center at 816-271-4613 if you have questions related to the Shelter in Place order. Contact the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services for questions of a medical nature. The DHSS number is 877-435-8411 and it is staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week by medical personnel.

Thank you to the community for working together to overcome – we are all in this together.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

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