



## MONROE COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH ORDER

As the Monroe County Public Health Authority, pursuant to the authority granted by Indiana Codes 16-20-1 et seq. and 16-41-9 et seq., in the interest of protecting all Monroe County residents, and reducing the spread of communicable disease, specifically the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), I order the following to take effect throughout Monroe County, Indiana, beginning on May 1, 2020 at 11:59 p.m. and to be in effect until May 15, 2020 at 11:59 p.m.

This **Health Order** is issued after respectful coordination or consultation with the Mayor of the City of Bloomington, the Monroe County Board of Commissioners, and representatives of the Town of Ellettsville, who independently have statutory authority under Indiana's Home Rule to act for the effective operation of local affairs within their units. The authority granted to me, as the Public Health Authority, to act throughout the entirety of Monroe County, is recognized by these units as state power delegated to instruct, guide, and protect the health of Monroe County residents and the constituents within their units.

Locally, data and our public health indicators do not show we are meeting the gating criteria set forth by the Centers for Disease Control<sup>1</sup> nor is there a decline of the incidence of COVID-19 in Monroe County; therefore, the intent of this Health Order is to **MAINTAIN** the **STATUS QUO** and current measures, until those gating criteria are met. The following is hereby ordered to continue to be in effect:

1. All food and beverage, including alcoholic beverage, sales remain restricted to carry-out (including by drive-through window) and delivery only, to the extent permitted by law. On-site consumption remains prohibited. Lines for carry-out services must provide an environment where patrons and staff maintain social distancing (at least six (6) feet away from other people) to the greatest extent possible.

This Paragraph does not apply to food service in healthcare facilities and food pantries, but those facilities must implement policies to maintain social distancing (at least six (6) feet away from other people) to the greatest extent possible.

2. All individuals residing in Monroe County must continue to stay in their residences (including hotels, motels, shared rental units, shelters, and similar facilities when used as a person's primary residence), with the following exceptions:
  - a. Travel necessary for certain essential activities, including:
    - i. buying groceries, food, and beverages;

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

- ii. buying medicine or other items necessary to maintain health while remaining at home;
- iii. buying products necessary to maintain the safety, sanitation, and essential operations of the home, including essential automobile supplies;
- iv. health care purposes, including visiting a doctor's office, hospital, health clinic, dentist, mental health provider or therapist, or other health care professional;
- v. buying materials necessary for working at home;
- vi. volunteering at a food bank, food pantry, homeless shelter, animal shelter, or other organization serving vulnerable members of the community; giving blood;
- vii. visiting, caring for, or providing food or other essentials to a family member, vulnerable or at-risk person, or pet;
- viii. travel required by law enforcement or court order; and
- ix. receiving materials for distance learning, meals, or other essential items from a school or other place of learning;

b. Outdoor exercise, such as walking, bicycling, hiking, or running. When engaged in outdoor exercise, individuals (other than members of the same family unit) should maintain distance of at least 6 feet from one another at all times. Golf courses may continue to be in operation, provided social distancing is adhered to in a manner consistent with this Health Order.

c. Travel to and from work, if the individual performs "minimum basic operations" for a business whose facility is temporarily closed. Minimum basic operations are defined as: (i) the minimum necessary activities to maintain the value of the business's inventory, preserve the condition of its physical plant and equipment, ensure security, process payroll and employee benefits, or for related functions; or (ii) the minimum functions required to enable other employees to continue to work remotely from their residences.

d. Travel to and from work, if an individual is an essential employee of an employer that is engaged in healthcare and public health operations, human services operations, essential government functions, essential infrastructure, or any of the other categories of "essential businesses and operations" as listed in Paragraphs 9, 10, 11, 12, and 14 of Governor Holcomb's March 23, 2020 Executive Order 20-08.

Paragraph 2 does not apply to travel by non-residents of Monroe County in transit through the County or leaving the County to return to their place of residence, or to County residents returning home from outside the County. Paragraph 2 also does not apply to persons in Monroe County experiencing homelessness. Persons in Monroe County experiencing homelessness should take all social distancing measures possible to protect their health and safety.

3. All businesses that do not fall into one of the categories identified in Subparagraphs 2(c) through 2(d) above must remain closed. For purposes of illustration only, this continued closure order includes, but is not limited to, the following categories of business: Movie theaters; live performance venues; bowling alleys; arcades; barber shops, hair salons, and nail salons; tanning salons; and gyms and fitness centers.

Paragraph 3 does not apply to government agencies.

4. All workplaces which remain open, consistent with Paragraphs 2 and 3 above, must reduce their on-site workplace staffing to the minimum required to perform the business's essential operations. Whenever possible, adjusted shifts or other arrangements should be made to minimize the number of people in a workplace at any given time.

5. Public gatherings of more than 50 people remain and are prohibited. This prohibition does not apply to the day-to-day operations of businesses identified in Subparagraph 3(d) above. Social gatherings of any size outside the home remain prohibited.
6. All playgrounds and indoor recreational facilities must remain closed unless such facilities are being utilized to provide food or other essential services.
7. When individuals must interact with one another outside the home, including at work, they must observe the following precautions:
  - a. Maintain a distance of at least 6 feet from other individuals;
  - b. Wash their hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds as frequently as possible, or use hand sanitizer when necessary;
  - c. Cover all coughs and sneezes;
  - d. Disinfect frequently used surfaces;
  - e. Share food, drinks, utensils, and office supplies and equipment (such as pens, staplers, and computer keyboards) as little as possible;
  - f. Increase ventilation of indoor spaces, by opening windows or adjusting air conditioning, as much as possible;
  - g. Hold all necessary meetings by telephone or videoconference whenever possible; and
  - h. Refrain from shaking hands or engaging in other physical contact with the hands or face of another person.
8. Residents of Monroe County must continue use public transportation only for the purposes identified in Paragraph 2 of this Order.
9. The Farmer's Market operated by the City of Bloomington, Indiana, shall continue to operate in the on-line manner in which it is currently operating and is hereby, specifically, authorized to continue as deemed appropriate by the City of Bloomington.
10. All persons are strongly encouraged and recommended, when in public and near others, to wear a face covering in order to protect themselves and others. This is true, especially, when one cannot maintain social distance, but is encouraged in public, generally.

This Order is, hereby, issued on May 1, 2020, pursuant to the Indiana Code provisions listed above and in a manner consistent with all statutory authority delegated to me as the Monroe County Public Health Authority. The Governor of the State of Indiana has recognized local county authority to guide and monitor the residents within their counties; therefore, I will continue to monitor the health of Monroe County residents and will issue additional Orders as necessary.

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Dr. Thomas W. Sharp