



County of Jefferson

State of Missouri

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March 20, 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

As your County Executive and your Director of the Jefferson County Health Department, we fully understand and realize the importance of the public's health and safety and our responsibility to that end. We are also aware of several states issuing very restrictive *Stay at Home Orders*. Locally, Orders of this type are being discussed and may be implemented by some of our neighboring jurisdictions. We have discussed this matter at great length and have the unenviable task of weighing the personal liberties at issue, the health and safety of our citizens while balancing the economic welfare of our community, Jefferson County. The COVID-19 Virus and the attending societal issues that this Pandemic presents are unique and present problems of planning, taking the appropriate action and when to take that action; too much, too soon or too little, too late. Based on our discussions, review of the issues and problems that *Stay at Home Orders* present, we have decided, jointly, that Jefferson County will not implement such an Order at this time. Again, taking this type of action, one way or the other, is a serious act. While we respect those communities that have taken this action, we are not prepared to do so at this time. Keep in mind this is an ever-changing challenge and our decision may change and take a turn in a different direction at a moments' notice.

Currently, nothing is more important than public safety. Know that we are monitoring this situation and are working on nothing else but your protection and well-being. We continue to advise social distancing, proper hygiene and to limit gatherings to no more than 10 people as contained in our previous Orders and Health Ordinances.

Dennis Gannon
Jefferson County Executive

Kelley Vollmar
Jefferson County Health Department Director