



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**March 16, 2020**

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## **Jackson County Executive statement on COVID-19**

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** – In collaboration with government leaders across the metropolitan region, Jackson County Executive Frank White, Jr. has implemented the following measures in all of Jackson County in an effort to prevent further spread of COVID-19:

- Prohibit group events of 10 or more people effectively immediately.<sup>1</sup>
- Close restaurants, bars, taverns, clubs and movie theaters effective 12:01 a.m. March 17, 2020 for 15 days. Exceptions are delivery, pickup and drive-through service.
- Close schools, with the support of superintendents from all 14 school districts, through Friday, April 3.

“These decisions have not been made lightly, but this is a public health emergency,” said Jackson County Executive Frank White, Jr. “No matter what side of the state line we’re on, we all have shared interests and a patchwork of closures and restrictions is not the best way forward for consistency and clarity. I know that because of this regional collaboration we will save lives.”

The County Executive’s action is consistent with recommendations of County Health Department Director Bridgette Shaffer, MPH and the guidelines issued today by the White House.

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<sup>1</sup> A prior version of this press release included a typographical error regarding exceptions. Exceptions will only be granted in extraordinary circumstances, if the Director of Health determines that sufficient mitigation plans for infectious disease are in place.

**Corrected: March 19, 2020**

Currently, there are no reported cases of COVID-19 in Eastern Jackson County.<sup>2</sup> The Jackson County Health Department is working closely with its partners across the community and region to monitor this rapidly evolving situation. The public can stay informed by signing up for digital updates or submitting questions to public health experts in the County by visiting [www.jacohd.org](http://www.jacohd.org).

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<sup>2</sup> This was the status of cases when the press release was first issued on March 16, 2020. As of the issuance of this corrected press release on March 19, 2020, Jackson County has three cases.