



## News Release

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**Date:** March 31, 2020  
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### **For Immediate Release:**

### **Mayor Clarifies Stay at Home Ordinance**

The Rolla City Council, by emergency declaration, adopted an ordinance approving a “Stay at Home” order at the special council meeting held on Monday, March 30<sup>th</sup>. The expressed “intent” of the ordinance is “to ensure the maximum number of people stay at home to slow the spread of COVID-19 . . . while enabling essential services to continue”. The order only affects those individuals and residents within the Rolla City Limits. The discussion recognized that while Rolla/Phelps County currently has no positive test cases (originating from Phelps County) there is belief that the coronavirus is likely in the community. Upon confirmation from the Phelps County Health Department and Phelps Health the consensus is that the residents and businesses of Rolla/Phelps County have done a very good job of maintaining CDC health safety guidelines. The ordinance reinforces the need to be diligent in such efforts for the health of all of our citizens.

The approved ordinance, scheduled to go into effect on Monday, April 6<sup>th</sup>, does emphasize that individuals are ordered to stay at home except to maintain essential activities. The ordinance goes on to urge “essential businesses” stay open to provide those essential services. Lastly the ordinance encourages all citizens and businesses to practice safe-distancing and sanitary practices as recommended by the CDC. The ordinance is not intended to intimidate or frighten individuals and in fact encourages citizens to stay active and to enjoy the outdoors while practicing safe distance practices.

The approved ordinance identifies dozens of “essential businesses” that will remain open including grocery stores, gas/service stations, home improvement stores, contractors, banks and professional offices, essential manufacturing operations, restaurants with delivery/take-out just to name a few. Over the next few days the City will be providing further guidance on which businesses are deemed “essential” under the ordinance.

Of all of the advice we have been given the most effective course of action is in some ways the easiest and least expensive -- personal responsibility, consideration, and discipline:

1. Hands – wash them often

2. Elbow – cough into it
3. Face – do not touch it
4. Feet – stay more than 6 ft from anyone
5. Feel – sick? Stay home

We will continue to provide updates via the City's website, social media, and periodic press releases. Be safe and well.