



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Wednesday, July 15, 2020**

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### **PLATTE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT ISSUES MASK MANDATE**

Platte City, MO -- At a Special Session Board meeting on July 8 the Platte County Health Department Board of Trustees voted to move to a mandatory face covering requirement in Platte County.

This decision was made as a result of a dramatic increase in our weekly COVID-19 case count as well as an increasing positive test rate, which has nearly tripled to over 14% (7-day moving average) since June 24, 2020. This increase is not due to an increased availability of tests in Platte County.

The specific details of this updated order are being reviewed by the Board of Trustees, Director and Deputy Director of the Health Department, with all details being available to the public the first part of next week. **The Board has determined that the Order will be effective at 12:01AM on Thursday, July 16, 2020.**

This notice is being given to allow organizations and businesses in our community time to make plans to meet these requirements. Businesses will be asked to post a sign on their doors depicting the following wording:

“Masks must be continuously worn to enter and remain at these premises by order of the Platte County Health Department”

A list of exceptions to the mandatory masking will be outlined in the order language to include medical conditions, age of children and exception while eating and drinking during dining at food establishments.

“With the increase in COVID19 cases on the rise, we are urging everyone to do their part to minimize the spread of the virus by the simple, research proven measures of physical distancing, wearing a mask and hand hygiene. We want to encourage everyone to support our businesses by providing other patrons the assurance that they are as safe as possible while shopping. During this health crisis, it takes all of us making a commitment to fight this virus.” stated Mary Jo Vernon, Health Director.

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