



For Immediate Release
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Media Contact: Melissa Sizemore, EMA, sizemorem@jccal.org, 205.254.2039
Chris Osborne, JCDH, chris.osborne@jcdh.org, 205.215.2877

JEFFERSON COUNTY UNIFIED COMMAND CENTER UPDATE FOR JUNE 5, 2020

Birmingham, AL – The Jefferson County Unified Command Center (JCUC) and its partner agencies continue to help provide information, goods and services to the people of Jefferson County throughout the COVID-19 pandemic response. Dr. Mark Wilson, Jefferson County Health Officer, and Jim Coker, Director of Jefferson County Emergency Management Agency serve as the co- leaders of the Unified Command Center.

Jefferson County Public Health Order set to Expire (State Health Order will remain in effect)

The Jefferson County Health Officer Order issued on May 22 kept certain entertainment venues closed until midnight on June 6, 2020. At the time this order was issued, we were seeing an increase in COVID-19 hospitalizations and new cases. In fact, in the week before and after May 22, Jefferson County saw some of the highest numbers of new cases per day since the beginning of the pandemic. More recently, we have seen some decrease in new cases and hospitalizations.

After June 6, Jefferson County will again fall under the Statewide Order issued on May 21, 2020 by the State Health Officer, which includes the rules for entertainment venues listed in Paragraph 9 below. The operators of each of these venues need to carefully consider whether they can implement these rules and follow the additional guidelines provided by the Alabama Department of Health before making a decision to open or not. People visiting these venues should wear a face covering if there is a potential of close contact with people not in their household, with rare exceptions. Note that children under two years old should not wear face coverings. If venue operators and visitors all do their part, they can help assure the success of these venues going forward.

9. Entertainment venues. Entertainment venues shall comply with the following rules:

a. Social distancing.

- (i) Employees shall not knowingly allow patrons or guests to congregate within six feet of a person from another household.
- (ii) Employees shall take reasonable steps to prevent people from congregating in lobby areas, break rooms, and other common areas.

b. Emergency maximum occupancy rate. Indoor and enclosed entertainment venues shall limit occupancy to 50 percent of the normal occupancy load as determined by the fire marshal. Outdoor venues or those not assigned a normal occupancy load by the fire marshal shall limit occupancy as required to comply with the social distancing requirements of this paragraph.

*c. **Facial coverings.** Each employee shall wear a mask or other facial covering that covers his or her nostrils and mouth at all times while in regular interaction with clients or guests.*

*d. **Sanitation.** An entertainment venue shall take reasonable steps, where practicable, to regularly disinfect frequently used items and surfaces.*

For purposes of this paragraph, “entertainment venue” includes bowling alleys, arcades, concert venues, theaters, auditoriums, performing centers, tourist attractions (including museums and planetariums), race tracks, commercial or public playgrounds, adult entertainment venues, casinos, and bingo halls. “Entertainment venue” does not include playgrounds operated by educational institutions and child day care facilities; playgrounds operated by education institutions and child day care facilities are covered by, and subject to, paragraph 13.

“Entertainment venue” also does not include “night clubs,” which are covered by, and subject to, paragraph 18. In addition to complying with the requirements of this paragraph, entertainment venues are strongly encouraged to read and implement the Alabama Department of Public Health’s “Guidelines for Entertainment Venues and Tourist Attractions,” available at <https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/covid19/assets/cov-sah-entertainment-tourist.pdf>.

COVID – 19 Data Released

On Friday May 29, the Jefferson County Department of Health (JCDH) received guidance from an independent expert statistician on how to provide zip code level data on COVID-19 within the constraints of HIPAA privacy laws. Per this guidance, JCDH may share the number of COVID-19 cases by zip code if the following criteria are met: 1) the population of the zip code is 20,000 people or greater, and 2) the number of cases in the zip code is 10 or more. If these criteria are not met, then neighboring zip codes have to be merged to meet these criteria.

A new web app has been added to the JCDH website and to the Jefferson County Unified Command GIS Hub which shows COVID-19 cases in newly created regions within Jefferson County, AL. These regions represent individual zip codes or combinations of zip codes that have a combined population of at least 20,000 with at least 10 positive cases of COVID-19. You can “click” on each region to see the total number of cases in the region, the number of cases per 10,000 people, and the zip code(s) represented.

The newly displayed information can be accessed here:

<https://jcdh.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=5e342c7bd0d94b5c9fa0ba9683a6b411>

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