



# FESTUS FOCUS

## COVID-19 SPECIAL EDITION

City of Festus  
(636) 937-4694

Festus Focus is also available at  
[www.CityofFestus.org](http://www.CityofFestus.org)



### City's Response

- On March 13, Mayor Sam Richards suspended water disconnections until further notice so that everyone would continue to have access to water and sewer regardless of their financial situation. All residents are urged to keep up with their water bills. If you have any questions or concerns about these water bills please call Public Works at 636-937-6646.

- The middle of March saw lobbies in all city buildings and the entire library closed to the public. They remain this way. City employees are working during business hours to answer questions via phone and email. There are drop boxes available at City Hall and Public Works. Bills may also be paid via the call in number that is located on the back of all bills. Payments may be made through the city's website or through your bank's bill pay system.

- At the council meeting on Monday, March 23, Council voted to close the City on Fridays. All departments are working modified schedules Monday - Thursday while continuing to provide services to our residents.

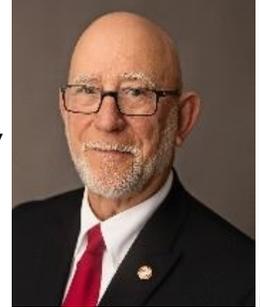
- All parks are open, but all play structures, ball fields, tennis and pickleball courts as well as all parking lots are closed and blocked off.

### ESSENTIAL in Festus

We all know and understand that medical professionals along with police and fire are front line workers during this pandemic. They definitely qualify as essential. We'd like to recognize other essential workers. These are some of the guys that medical professionals call on when the water stops running. Without these workers our residents could not wash hands for the prescribed 20 seconds and it would be very difficult to keep ourselves and our homes clean without them. They are just some of the people in Festus that are essential!

### Mayor Sam Richards:

As this COVID-19 pandemic disrupts our daily lives, I hope that this message finds you, your family and friends healthy and safe. I wanted to take a moment to remind you that **#WeAreFestus** and I am extremely proud of how our community has faced this crisis. I am reminded of something I was taught as a Marine, **Improvise, Adapt and Overcome**, three words that have served me time and again and ring true in these challenging times. It is my belief that as we improvise and adapt to our current circumstances; whether it is making a homemade face mask or supporting a local restaurant with a curbside order we will overcome and be better prepared for what the future may hold. As a community we pray for those that are battling this virus on the frontline or are afflicted themselves and we mourn those who have lost their lives because of it.



**Remember, Stay Home and Stay Safe.**

### City Meetings

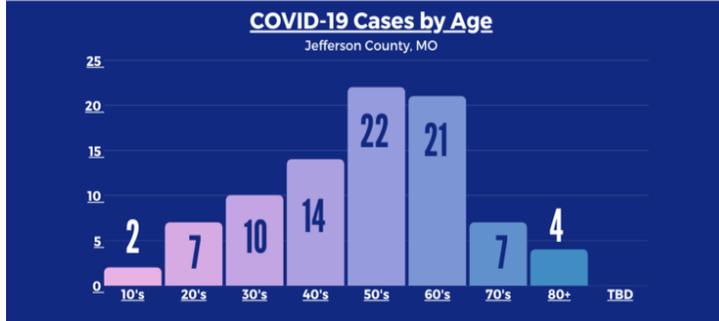
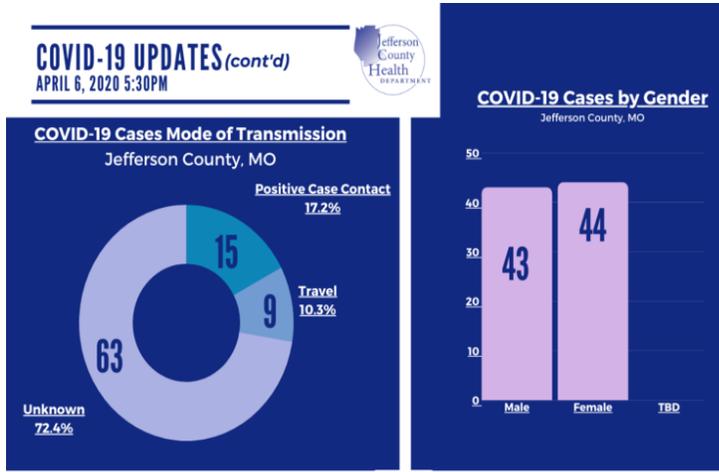
City Council continues to meet on the second and fourth Wednesday of every month at 5pm. Meetings are open to the public, but in a different way to allow for social distancing guidelines. The city now has a YouTube channel to view live council meetings—There is a link on the city's website that will connect you to the YouTube channel. You can also submit Public Comment through the City's website at [www.CityofFestus.org](http://www.CityofFestus.org),





### Jefferson County Health Department

The JCHD post daily updates on their website ([www.JeffCoHealth.org](http://www.JeffCoHealth.org)) and Facebook page concerning COVID-19 and how it is affecting Jefferson County residents. These posts contain information about total numbers of county cases and those cases broken down by zip code. Learning how many men have it compared to women and the number of cases in each age group is just the beginning. These are sites that should be visited daily for up to the minute information. Pictures are from the April 6 update and show some of what you can find the on their website or Facebook page.



### “Shelter in Place” and State of Emergency Order Extended

On April 2<sup>nd</sup>, County Executive Dennis Gannon extended the State of Emergency for Jefferson County, Missouri, which was set to expire on April 13, 2020. Also extended was the Executive Order regarding restaurants and food establishments that was set to expire on April 4, 2020. Both are now extended until further notice. Also, effective immediately, while the County Parks are to remain open, all playground equipment at the parks shall be closed for use at this time.

### Testing Facility

The nearest drive-thru testing facility is located in Hillsboro at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds. You must have an appointment and be sent there. If you feel that you could be infected go to [www.Mercy.net](http://www.Mercy.net) and follow the prompts.

