



Mask up Independence to help slow the spread of COVID-19

One of the simplest steps we can take to help protect ourselves and our family members is to wear a mask in public. At this time, masks are required at all times when in public indoors spaces (unless actively eating or drinking, or when alone in an enclosed offices) and when outdoors and social distancing cannot be maintained. As of August 27, there were more than 5,100 confirmed cases in Eastern Jackson County since March and it is estimated 1,400 of every 100,000 residents in the County have tested positive for COVID-19. As of August 31, more than 1,500 people had lost their lives in Missouri to COVID-19 - approximately 500 more than those that died of the flu in the 2019-2020 flu season. On average, 16,000-40,000 people pass away from the flu in the United States each year. So far, more than 180,000 people have died of COVID-19 in the U.S.

Please continue to wear your masks, social distance and regularly wash your hands. If you are sick, please stay home. And, if you believe you have COVID-19 or have been exposed to COVID-19, please get tested. Learn more about regional testing opportunities here, jacksongov.org/1190/COVID-19-Test-Sites.



Watch this playlist with helpful information to prepare for emergencies during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

September is National Preparedness Month

While we are continuing to live through an emergency in the COVID-19 Pandemic it is important to also prepare for events like winter storms, tornadoes, flooding or fires. Having a family emergency plan, basic emergency kits and regularly practicing for an event can be very important in the event the real thing happens. Learn more about how to prepare for an emergency at Ready.gov. If you'd like to be part of our Citizen Emergency Response Team helping the first responders in an event, please visit indep.us/emergencypreparedness.



Flushing medications is a growing concern for the environment

There is a growing concern that an increasing number of people are flushing unused or expired medications down the toilet, which is bad for the environment. This is a problem, because it results in drugs finding their way into the nation's wastewater facilities and ultimately into our waterways. Medications such as hormones, antidepressants, antibiotics and over-the-counter medications have been detected in the environment, which is why proper disposal of these items is so important. Controlling what goes down the drain is the easiest and most effective way to protect the environment. Most wastewater treatment plants cannot remove these types of contaminants, so we are asking our citizens to do their part, by never flushing medications down the toilet. The public can take unwanted drugs, medicines, and other products to the City's annual household hazardous waste collection event or they can practice certain safety habits when disposing of them in the trash.

If placing them in the trash, use the following Federal Guidelines from the Office of National Drug Control Policy:

- 1) Take your prescription drugs out of their original containers.
- 2) Dissolve drugs in water and mix them with an undesirable substance, such as cat litter or used coffee grounds.
- 3) Put this mixture into a disposable container with a lid, such as an empty margarine tub, or into a sealable bag.
- 4) Conceal or remove any personal information, including Rx number, on the empty containers by covering it with black permanent marker or duct tape, or by scratching it off.
- 5) Place the sealed container with the mixture, and the empty drug containers, in the trash.

For questions call Municipal Services at 325-7711.

Hours changing at Sermon Center and Truman Memorial Building

Beginning September 8 the Sermon Center will be open at 8 a.m. Monday through Saturday and it will close at 8 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and at 5 p.m. Friday and Saturday

The Truman Memorial Building will be open at 9 a.m. Monday through Thursday and will close at 6 p.m. on Monday and Wednesday and 7 p.m. on Tuesday and Thursday. It will be closed Friday, Saturday and Sunday

The following classes will be placed on a hiatus until further notice:

- Barre at Truman Memorial Building
- Beginners Yoga at Truman Memorial Building
- Body Blast at the Sermon Center
- Yoga Sculpt at the Sermon Center
- Zumba Tone at the Sermon Center on Saturdays.

If you have questions, please contact the Parks|Recreation|Tourism Department at 816-325-7843.



Questions? Contact mlewis@indepmo.org.

September Events

Farmers Market, Wednesdays and Saturdays

Join us on from 8 a.m. – 1 p.m. on Wednesdays and Saturdays for the Farmers Market at the Independence Uptown Market, 210 W Truman Rd. Please note masks and social distancing are required.

Drop-off Depot, Sat., Sept. 12, 8 AM-3PM

The September Drop-off Depot will take place on Sat., Sept. 12 from 8AM-3PM at 875 Vista Ave. Masks are required. Find the full list of what is accepted and costs at indep.us/dropoffdepot.

Enchanted Forest cancelled

The Powerhouse Theatre in conjunction with the Independence Parks/Recreation/Tourism Department, has proudly sponsored and produced "The Enchanted Forest", a local Halloween favorite, over the past three decades at George Owens Nature Park. After reviewing all options and in consideration of both public and participant safety, the difficult decision to cancel this year's event has been made. If you would like to continue your support of community theatre in our area, visit the event's Facebook page at [The Enchanted Forest at George Owens Park](https://TheEnchantedForestatGeorgeOwensPark) for updates on how you can assist.



Complete the Census today

To help our communities when we come back together, respond to the 2020 Census today—and impact the next 10 years of health care, infrastructure, and education. The deadline is Sept. 30, 2020. Learn more at 2020census.gov.

Important Numbers

- Crime Stoppers Tips 474-8477
- Drop-Off Depot/Trash 325-7600
- Municipal Court 325-7230
- Police NonEmergency 325-7300
- Fire NonEmergency 325-7123
- Report Power Outage 325-7550
- Utilities Customer Service 325-7930
- Weeds, Trash 325-7193



Concern to report?

Download IndepNow in the Google Play Store here, bit.ly/2J7oc0w, or the Apple App Store here, apple.co/33zRNca. Or visit indep.us/actioncenter to start from your computer today.

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