



ST. JOSEPH COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

St. Joseph County Department of Health

"Promoting physical and mental health and facilitating the prevention of disease, injury and disability for all St. Joseph County residents"

Robert M. Einterz, MD
Health Officer

Mark D. Fox, MD, PhD, MPH
Deputy Health Officer

Heidi Beidinger-Burnett, PhD, MPH
President, Board of Health

Jason Marker, MD
Vice President, Board of Health

St. Joseph County Public Health Order 1-2021

In order to ensure a coordinated, effective, and evidence-based response to COVID-19, the St. Joseph County Unified Command was established, consisting of representatives of St. Joseph County Department of Health, Beacon Health System, St. Joseph Health System, the South Bend Clinic, and the COVID-19 Response Coordinator, serving as a liaison to the elected officials and the business community in the South Bend region.

Considering the recommendations of the members of Unified Command; the current status of the pandemic within the country, region and county; an appraisal of the available health literature; and, given that:

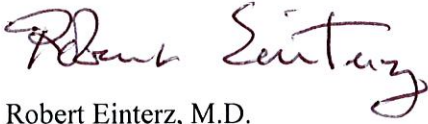
- Most residents of SJC have adhered to the State's vaccine eligibility requirements and have been waiting for their turn to receive the vaccine;
- Most SJC residents older than 16 will have had an opportunity to receive a vaccination against SARS-CoV-2 by the end of May 2021;
- The incidence of COVID-19 in SJC is increasing again. The 7-day rolling average of new cases per day has increased by more than 40% over the last three weeks;
- The numbers of new cases per week exceeds 200 cases/100,000 population, placing SJC in the "Red" category;
- Two variants categorized by the Centers for Diseases Control (CDC) as variants of concern, the "United Kingdom" variant (B.1.1.7) and one of the "California" variants B.1.427, were recently detected in SJC. There is evidence that these variants may be associated with an increase in transmissibility, more severe disease (increased hospitalizations or deaths), significant reduction in neutralization by antibodies generated during previous infection or vaccination, reduced effectiveness of treatments or vaccines, or diagnostic detection failures;
- The prevalence of variants in SJC is increasing;
- The preponderance of evidence demonstrates face coverings when used properly will reduce transmission of virus from an infected person to a non-immune person thus reducing cases, hospitalizations, and deaths from SARS-CoV-2;
- Vaccination against SARS-CoV-2 will reduce viral transmission and provide some protection against variants of concern;
- Reduced viral transmission will blunt and/or prevent the emergence of variants;

As the St. Joseph County Public Health Authority, pursuant to the authority granted by Indiana Codes 16-20-1 et seq. and 16-41-9 et seq., in the interest of protecting all St. Joseph County residents, and reducing the spread of communicable disease, specifically SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19), I order the following to take effect throughout St. Joseph County, Indiana, beginning April 1, 2021, through May 27, 2021:

- Any business establishment open to customers make alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol readily accessible at the entrance and in proximity to high-touch surfaces.
- A face covering that fits over one's nose and mouth and snugly against the sides of one's face shall be worn by any persons entering an enclosed public space or enclosed place of business, unless such persons have a medical exception indicating that a face covering is ill-advised for health reasons; or, the face covering prevents the persons from delivering or receiving goods or services; or, it can be ensured that all persons in the enclosed public space or enclosed place of business have been fully vaccinated against SARS-CoV-2 or previously infected with SARS-CoV-2. The face covering shall be worn when physical distancing of at least six feet cannot be maintained.

- Exceptions include but are not limited to children five years of age and younger; children with severe cognitive disorders who have difficulties tolerating a mask; any person who has trouble breathing, is unconscious, incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the face covering without assistance. Examples of such exceptions include but are not limited to individuals with respiratory conditions such as asthma and chronic obstructive lung disease, severe anxiety, autism and cerebral palsy.

This order will not be renewed, revised, or extended beyond May 27, 2021.



Robert Einterz, M.D.
Health Officer