Why was this order issued?
This order was issued to protect the health and safety of all residents. Our goal in Cape Girardeau County is to limit the continued spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19) in our community.

What does this order require?
The order is a list of requirements of all Cape Girardeau County residents and business should follow. The order is effective from April 6, 2020 (12:01 AM) through April 24, 2020 (11:59 PM) and requires residents to stay at home unless they are engaged in any of the essential services.

Will residents be subject to penalties such as arrest or citations for leaving their homes?
Residents can leave their residences to engage in essential activities, including exercising and maintaining personal health (walking/bicycling/running/etc. in groups of 10 or less), working at an essential business, obtaining supplies or necessary services, or seeking medical care. We strongly encourage individuals to stay home if they are not engaged in these essential functions.

Does my business qualify as an essential business as defined in the proclamation?
The businesses below are considered essential businesses; the list is not all inclusive and other business may be deemed essential that are not on the list.

- Health care (doctors, dentists, nurses, hospitals, pharmacies, medical research facilities, labs, etc);
- Food and drink production and distribution (including grocery stores, markets, restaurants that offer food for carryout, curbside or delivery);
- Sanitation (including laundromats, dry cleaners, household and business cleaning services and supply stores);
- Transportation (including gas stations, public transit, taxis, airports, railroads and other private transportation providers);
- Financial Services (including banks, insurance providers, and professional services required to comply with legal and regulatory requirements);
- Manufacturing and distribution of supplies and materials for essential businesses (including trucking and other supply chain support functions);
- Maintenance and construction of infrastructure and households;
- Child care;
- Essential Government Operations;
- Residential facilities (including hotels and motels);
- Media and Communications Providers (including newspapers, radio stations and television stations); and
- Mailing, Shipping, and Delivery services.

Functions that the Cape Girardeau County Public Health Center or Cape Girardeau County Commision deem to be essential services.
My business does not fall under one of the categories deemed essential, can it remain open if health precautions are taken?
Any entity that does not employ individuals to perform essential worker functions (set forth by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency) shall adhere to the limitations on social gathering and social distancing but can remain open. These entities may request a waiver from the limitations on social gatherings from the Director of Department of Economic Development.

Do businesses and/or employees need formal certification or identification that they qualify as an essential business and/or are employed at an essential business?
No special certificate is required.

How will this emergency order be enforced?
The order grants the local public health authorities the ability to carry out and enforce the order by any means necessary, which may include penalty under the law and a fine. However, we are relying on the goodwill of citizens to follow the order. We will use the least restrictive means of enforcement and reserve fines and penalties as a last resort.

Are energy workers classified as essential?
Workers supporting the energy sector, regardless of the energy source, segment of the system, or infrastructure the worker is involved in, or who are needed to monitor, operate, engineer, and maintain the reliability, safety, environmental health, and physical and cyber security of the energy system.

Are transportation and logistics workers classified as essential?
Employees supporting or enabling transportation functions, including truck drivers, bus drivers, dispatchers, maintenance and repair technicians, warehouse workers, truck stop and rest area workers, Department of Motor Vehicle (DMV) employees, towing/recovery services, roadside assistance workers, intermodal transportation personnel, and workers who maintain and inspect infrastructure.

Are hotels and motels classified as essential?
Yes. We recognize that individuals employed in essential businesses who are traveling (for example medical workers or infrastructure maintenance workers) and/or individuals who find their homes temporarily uninhabitable may need to secure shelter.

Are manufacturing facilities classified as essential?
Any manufacturing operation that supplies goods necessary for the operation of other essential businesses (for example medical equipment, transport equipment, telecommunications equipment, supplies necessary to maintain or build infrastructure, sanitation and cleaning supplies, food or beverages, etc.) is classified as essential.

Are personal services, such as nail salons, hair salons, and tanning facilities classified as essential?
No, businesses that provide personal services are not classified as essential.

Are gyms and workout facilities classified as essential?
No, gyms and workout facilities are not classified as essential. However, individuals are encouraged to use park green spaces and exercise outdoors while they practice social distancing.