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For Immediate Release

Christian County leaders urge precautionary measures in response to pandemic

Ozark, MO – Local government agencies across Christian County are united in urging the public to take precautionary measures to prevent the potential spread of COVID-19.

Leaders from across the county government, county health department, municipal governments, school districts, and first responder agencies have discussed the evolving national and state responses to the COVID-19 pandemic and continue to assess the appropriate local response to protect our community.

Here's what people in Christian County should know:

- **Should we cancel an event?** We strongly encourage social distancing and the cancellation of all community mass gatherings, events, meetings, and church events which would gather 50 people or more together from now through April 12th (4 weeks). Businesses are exempted. The Christian County Department of Health and Christian County Emergency Management will continue to monitor this situation and may extend this advice for another 4 weeks if necessary.
- **Will school be cancelled?** Nixa, Ozark, Sparta, Spokane, and Clever school districts have decided to cancel school through April 3rd. Chadwick schools will remain open. Please see information being released from your school district regarding meal service, alternative learning options, and childcare options for the children of first responders and healthcare workers.
- **I believe I may have contracted COVID-19. How can I get tested?** If you believe you may have COVID-19, please contact your physician first for instructions. You may also conduct a health evaluation over tele-medicine services. If the physician believes you may have COVID-19, they will contact the Missouri Department of Health to determine if you qualify to be tested. If so, your physician will communicate to you how and where to be tested. Due to current limited supply of test kits, only patients which have risk factors and high likelihood of testing positive will be recommended for testing.
- **When can I expect updates?** Christian County Emergency Management will provide updated information to the public twice a week and as needed during this situation.

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Media Contact:

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(Serving as PIO on behalf of Christian County Emergency Management for this incident)
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