



ALL MISSOURIANS MUST USE FACE COVERINGS WHEN SHOPPING

April 7, 2020

Governor Michael L. Parson
Office of Governor
P.O. Box 720
Jefferson City, MO 65102

ALSO SENT VIA EMAIL

Dear Governor Parson,

Grocery store workers continue to need your support. They are worried about contracting COVID-19 and they are frightened that they will come home and infect their families.

These workers are a lifeline to their communities. They are serving your constituents across Missouri. However, the reality is that these workers are at great risk. While some in grocery store management have instituted additional safety policies like plexiglass barriers at cash registers and signage asking shoppers to maintain social distancing, a number of shoppers are ignoring these warnings and putting workers at risk.

Our employers have distributed masks to their employees. As you are aware, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is officially recommending that Americans wear *“cloth face coverings in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain (e.g., grocery stores and pharmacies) especially in areas of significant community-based transmission.”*

The CDC goes on to clarify: *“The cloth face coverings recommended are not surgical masks or N-95 respirators. Those are critical supplies that must continue to be reserved for healthcare workers and other medical first responders, as recommended by current CDC guidance.”*
(source: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>)

With that in mind, I am calling on you to update your recent “stay at home” order to require that all Missourians wear some kind of face covering when in a grocery stores, pharmacies, and other retail establishments that are open because of the essential services they provide.

Your office has both the authority to issue this order as well as the broad reach ensure that this safety message is spread across the state.

This step will greatly reduce the potential spread of COVID-19 both among grocery workers and the general public, and reflects the most up-to-date advice from the CDC. I urge you to consider taking this step, and I look forward to hearing from your office. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to my office any time.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David M. Cook". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "D".

David Cook
International Vice President
President, UFCW Local 655