



GOVERNOR PARSON SIGNS EXECUTIVE ORDER 20-05 ALLOWING SALE OF UNPREPARED FOODS BY RESTAURANTS

March 23, 2020

JEFFERSON CITY □ Today, Governor Mike Parson signed Executive Order 20-05 ordering the suspension of any prohibition on the sale of unprepared food by restaurants to the public.

“Due to the public health threat caused by COVID-19, many restaurants have been forced to limit or cease their normal business operations,” **Governor Parson** said. “We hope easing this regulatory burden will not only assist restaurants financially during this time and avoid unnecessary waste, but also help meet the increased demand for food across the state.”

Limitations on restaurants due to the COVID-19 crisis could result in the spoliation of unprepared food, and restaurants may wish to sell their unprepared food directly to members of the public without fear of punishment.

The Executive Order dictates the suspension of any prohibition of the sale of unprepared food by restaurants to the public or the enforcement thereof by any political subdivision of the state. Nothing in the order shall be construed to suspend the enforcement of laws pertaining to adulterated or misbranded food pursuant to Chapter 196, RSMo.

This Executive Order will terminate on May 15, 2020, unless extended in whole or in part.

“Many restaurants and bars are now offering drive-thru, pickup, and delivery options. This is a great option for Missourians to continue supporting their local businesses while still practicing the required social distancing,” **Governor Parson** said. “We will continue doing everything we can to minimize the impact of COVID-19 on Missourians and their families, which includes supporting Missouri’s small businesses and the communities that depend on them.”