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Keep COVID from Attending Your Garage or Estate Sale

If you’re wondering about the wisdom of holding a garage, yard, or estate sale this summer, congratulations. You’ve taken the first step toward protecting the health and safety of yourself and others in your community.

In the midst of a pandemic, it makes sense to think twice about everything we do, and whether it’s possible to do those things without risking health. If you’re at a higher risk of serious illness from COVID-19 – you’re over age 65 or have a serious underlying health condition, like heart or lung disease or diabetes – then you might want to consider postponing your sale until the pandemic has waned.

If you do plan to go ahead with your sale, here are some precautions you can take to reduce risk:

- **Assess the health** of everyone who will work with you at the sale. Instruct them to stay home if they have any disease symptoms. If they show up and have symptoms of COVID-19, postpone the sale.
- **Put up signs** notifying customers of your safety requirements.
- **Provide for physical distancing.** Keep customers and sellers at least 6 feet apart, including when they line up to pay. Some ways to accomplish this are to spread tables out to maximize space, provide separation between the cashier and customers, and use chalk or tape to identify 6-foot separation at the cashier’s table.
- **Discourage people from handling items** to prevent potential virus transmission. Put price tags where people can easily see them without having to pick up an item.
- **Encourage the use of cloth face masks** that fully cover the mouth and nose. People can spread COVID-19 even if they don’t feel sick. A cloth mask helps contain droplets we produce when we speak, cough, sneeze, or sing. Just remember, a mask doesn’t replace the need to have social distancing and good personal hygiene.
- **Provide tissues and no-touch garbage cans** throughout the sale venue.
- **Place hand sanitizers** with at least 60% alcohol in several locations to encourage hand hygiene, especially after handling money.
- **Clean all surfaces** touched by customers at least every couple of hours, depending on how many shoppers you have.

If you have questions, please call Lewis and Clark Public Health at 457-8900. Thank you for protecting our community from COVID-19!