



Lawrence · Douglas County
PUBLIC HEALTH
Advancing Health for All



NEWS RELEASE
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Under Governor's order, Douglas County residents directed to continue to stay at home except for essential activities

Douglas County Health Officer repeals earlier local order to eliminate confusion

LAWRENCE – Since March 24, Douglas County residents have lived under a “Stay at Home” order as the Douglas County community continues with efforts to slow the spread of COVID-19.

As Governor Laura Kelly on March 30 enacted a statewide stay-home order that superseded the local one, Douglas County Health Officer Dr. Thomas Marcellino has now rescinded his local order to eliminate confusion. The [Governor's Executive Order](#) remains in effect now through April 19.

“We want to emphasize to Douglas County residents that the Governor's order still applies, and it is very important for people to stay home unless they need to make a trip for an essential need or perform an essential function identified by the state,” Marcellino said. “Practicing social distancing is the best tool we have right now to control the spread of the coronavirus.”

Under the Governor's Executive Order 20-16, Kansans are directed to stay home unless performing one of the following essential activities:

- Obtaining food, medicine and other household necessities;
- Going to and from work at a business or organization performing an essential function as identified in the [Kansas Essential Function Framework](#);
- Seeking medical care;
- Caring for children, family members or pets, or caring for a vulnerable person in another location;
- Engaging in an outdoor activity, provided individuals maintain a distance of six feet from one another and abide by the 10-person limitation on gathering size.

Similar to the Douglas County order, the state one closes bars and dine-in restaurants but allows for preparing and serving meals for takeout and delivery and curbside delivery of alcoholic beverages so long as the container is sealed, for example.

Individuals or entities who are uncertain whether they perform functions exempted from the prohibitions of the Governor's order can visit the website, governor.kansas.gov/keff, [this FAQ](#) or may email KEFF@ks.gov.

The Governor's order is in place until at least April 19, and Marcellino said if he decided to extend a stay-at-home order for a longer period than the Governor's, he would reissue a local order using the Governor's language to maintain consistency.

[Governor's Executive Order 20-14](#) also remains in place until May 1 to prohibit mass gatherings of 10 or more people to limit the spread of COVID-19.

Lawrence-Douglas County Public Health is part of a Unified Command system in Douglas County that is working collaboratively with LMH Health, Douglas County and the City of Lawrence to protect the safety, health and well-being of all Douglas County residents and to provide critical services.

Douglas County residents can also stay informed as information changes frequently. For more information visit douglascountyks.org/coronavirus or LDCHealth.org/Coronavirus.

For general information, call Lawrence-Douglas County Public Health's Coronavirus line, 785-856-4343 or the LMH Health Coronavirus Line, 785-505-2819.

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