

EMERGENCY ORDER OF LOCAL HEALTH OFFICER

Emergency Public Health Order issued on this 1st day of May, 2020 to mitigate the spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) epidemic in Douglas County, Kansas, pursuant to the authority provided in K.S.A. 65-119 and K.S.A. 65-129b and other applicable laws or regulations.

WHEREAS, the Local Health Officer is authorized and required, pursuant to K.S.A. 65-119 and K.S.A. 65-129b to immediately exercise and maintain a supervision over known or suspected cases of any infectious or contagious disease during its continuance, and to issue orders seeing that all such cases are properly handled and that the provisions of the Kansas public health laws as to isolation, quarantine and disinfection are duly enforced; and

WHEREAS, the Local Health Officer is appointed by the Douglas County Health Board and is authorized to prohibit public gatherings when necessary for the control of any and all infectious or contagious diseases, pursuant to K.S.A. 65-119; and

WHEREAS on the 12th day of March 2020, the Governor of the State of Kansas, Laura Kelly, found that a disaster had occurred, or the threat thereof was imminent within Douglas County, Kansas as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19) and the confirmed outbreak and person-to-person spread of COVID-19 in the United States, Kansas and Douglas County; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19, a respiratory disease that spreads easily from person to person and may result in serious illness or death, has been confirmed in Kansas and in Douglas County, resulting in serious illness and at least one death to date in Kansas; and

WHEREAS, such conditions endanger health, safety and welfare of persons and property within the border of Douglas County, Kansas; and

WHEREAS, to reduce spread of COVID-19, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) and the Douglas County Local Health Officer, all recommend implementation of community mitigation strategies to increase containment of the virus, including cancellation of large gatherings and social distancing in smaller gatherings; and

WHEREAS, the worldwide outbreak of COVID-19 and the resulting epidemic in Kansas and Douglas County continue to threaten the life and health of our citizens and visitors as well as the economy and remains a public disaster affecting life, health, property and the public peace; and

WHEREAS, the stay at home order of the Governor of the State of Kansas, Laura Kelly, Executive Order 20-29, which began the process of safely, strategically, and incrementally reopening business and facilitating economic recovery of Kansas while still mitigating the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, nothing in Executive Order 20-29 prohibits the Local Health Officer to issue and enforce more restrictive orders or provisions; and

WHEREAS, the Local Health Officer believes continuation of the community mitigation strategy related to restaurants and libraries is necessary to contain the virus in addition to the restrictions of Executive Order 20-29;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED by the Local Health Officer, pursuant to the above authorities, that:

1. Under the authority of Executive Order 20-29 which allows the Local Health Officer to issue and enforce more restrictive orders, all restaurants, dining facilities, self-service/buffet food or beverage, and libraries, in Douglas County, Kansas are hereby ordered to remain closed to the public effective at 12:01 a.m. on May 4, 2020 until 12:01 a.m. on May 18, 2020, except that any such establishment may continue to provide carryout, drive-through and delivery food and beverage services. In all areas, establishments must follow the guidance provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), federal, state and local public health officials for social distancing and infection control measures.

2. This Order may be supplemented or modified as required for the effective and efficient management and control of the Coronavirus epidemic in the County by further order or direction of the Douglas County Board of Public Health or by the Douglas County Local Health Officer.

IT IS SO ORDERED THIS 1st DAY OF MAY, 2020


Thomas Marcellino MD

Dr. Thomas Marcellino
Local Health Officer
Douglas County, Kansas