

EMERGENCY ORDER OF LOCAL HEALTH OFFICER

Emergency Public Health Order issued on this 29th day of May 2020 to mitigate the spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) in Sumner County, Kansas, pursuant to the authority provided in K.S.A. 65-119, K.S.A. 65-129b and K.S.A. 65-202 and other applicable laws or regulations.

WHEREAS, the Local Health Officer is authorized and required, pursuant to K.S.A. 65-119, K.S.A. 65-129b and K.S.A. 65-202 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 Board of County Commissioners 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 24th day of March 2020, the Board of County Commissioners of Sumner County, Kansas found that a disaster had occurred, or the threat thereof was imminent within Sumner 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, multiple counties surrounding Sumner County; and

WHEREAS on the 22nd of May 2020, the Ad Astra 2.0 order issued by Kansas Governor Laura Kelly will go into effect. The plan states "...the State will set the regulatory baseline for Kansas local governments in each phase of this framework, allowing local governments to retain the ability to impose additional restrictions that are in the best interest of the health of their residents;" and

WHEREAS on the 26th day of May, 2020, Kansas Governor Laura Kelly announced that the Ad Astra order will no longer have the force and effect of law and that Counties would thenceforth be responsible for issuing any further public health orders to manage the outbreak in their local jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, Sumner County desires to incorporate by reference the mandatory requirements from the Ad Astra Plan, 2.0, as amended to specifically apply to circumstances in Sumner County, and order that these requirements continue to carry the force and effect of law in Sumner County; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is a respiratory disease that spreads easily from person to person and may result in serious illness or death, has been confirmed in Kansas, 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 Sumner 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 Sumner County Local Health Officer, all recommend implementation of community mitigation strategies to increase containment of the virus, including cancellation of large gatherings, as defined herein, and social distancing in smaller gatherings;

and

WHEREAS, the worldwide pandemic of COVID-19 and the resulting outbreak in Kansas, and counties surrounding Sumner 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, it is estimated that each COVID-19 positive patient could infect between 2.6 to 4 other people; and

WHEREAS, there is emerging evidence in counties around Sumner County of transmission by pre-symptomatic and asymptomatic people which is making routine case-finding and exposure tracing strategies difficult, if not insufficient; and

NOW THEREFORE, the following local requirements adopted herein (including Attachment A hereto) are mandatory and legally required in order for certain businesses to safely open and serve the public. Any business or entity that does not operate in accord with these requirements is subject to closure by an Order of the Sumner County Health Officer.

THEREFORE, this proactive public health order is hereby issued to minimize the impact of COVID-19 on Sumner County.

IT IS SO ORDERED THIS 29TH DAY OF MAY 2020, EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY, and shall remain in effect unless rescinded or superseded by subsequent order.

Laura Rettig
Health Officer
Sumner County, Kansas