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CORE 4 Acts to prevent the spread of COVID-19

Yesterday, the city/county managers from the City of Kansas City, Missouri, Jackson County, Missouri, Johnson County, Kansas, and the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas, met and agreed to implement measures to close restaurants, bars, taverns, clubs and movie theaters in their jurisdictions as of 12:01 AM on March 17, 2020, for 15 days. Exceptions are delivery, pickup, and drive-through service. In Wyandotte County, Kansas, this order includes casinos.

“Emerging scientific evidence suggests that early rather than late measures to reduce social interactions by the public reduces the spread of COVID-19. Epidemiological studies from this year’s outbreak and prior pandemics indicate that the total number of cases and deaths can be reduced by closing venues where the public has prolonged close contact with each other. These measures are based on that important information,” said Dr. Allen Greiner, the Wyandotte County Public Health Department’s Chief Medical Officer.

Each jurisdiction will implement the closures according to their statutes and procedures.

All four jurisdictions have also decided to ban public gatherings of more than 10 people effective today. Exceptions include governmental and judicial functions, healthcare facilities, private business operations, religious and faith-based activities, weddings, and funerals.

“Our public health officials from across the Metro area agree that we must be aggressive to combat the spread of COVID-19, or risk much greater rates of infection in the general population. If we all commit to doing our part to limit transmission, then we should expect to return to normal much sooner. Time will tell how effective these measures will be, but these measures must be taken,” said Mayor David Alvey.

The jurisdictions will revisit the decision on April 1 with an evaluation of conditions at that time.

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