FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE                                                                                           May 29, 2020

Wyandotte County Bars and Nightclubs May Re-open on Friday, May 29 at Noon
Capacity is limited; social distancing and frequent disinfecting must be practiced

Effective May 29 at 12:01 PM, bars and nightclubs in Wyandotte County may re-open to the public with some restrictions in terms of capacity and social distancing.

Since May 22, Wyandotte County had aligned with the Ad Astra: A Plan to Re-open Kansas Phase Two re-opening plan. Phase Two prohibits bars and nightclubs which are not already operating curbside and carryout services from opening. However, as of noon today, bars and nightclubs in Wyandotte County are permitted to re-open under the following conditions:

- Only 15 or fewer patrons are allowed inside the building with appropriate 6 ft social distancing between individuals, couples, or groups residing in the same household. Mingling within 6 feet by people who don’t cohabitate is strongly discouraged.
- Outdoor seating is encouraged, provided there is appropriate 6 ft social distancing between individuals, couples, or groups residing in the same household.
- Servers, bartenders and other staff are required to wear masks at all times and to wash their hands frequently for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, even if gloves are being used when interacting with patrons.
- Sufficient hand sanitizer must be available throughout the business, and staff must clean high-touch surfaces (such as door handles, bar tops, tables, etc.) frequently with a proper disinfectant.

“We believe staying in Phase 2 is still the best approach at this time to cautiously start re-opening while protecting Wyandotte County residents and workers,” said Dr. Erin Corriveau, Deputy Medical Officer with the Unified Government Public Health Department. “It has become clear, however, that this was placing undue restrictions on bars and nightclubs compared to other businesses, and this looked different from the restrictions in neighboring communities. So long as they implement appropriate safety measures such as social distancing, bars, and nightclubs do not inherently pose greater risks than other types of businesses that have already been able to re-open.”

“I’m pleased that the latest Wyandotte County health data allows us to continue the relaxation of some health orders, providing the opportunity to re-open more activities within our community and the economy,” said Mayor/CEO David Alvey. “Today’s announcement by our public health officials is good news for small businesses, providing some added equity with other retail establishments in the community. We will, however, continue to maintain a balanced approach moving forward, relying on medical experts to provide guidance and encouraging our residents and businesses to maintain and adhere to these safety protocols.”

This Order becomes effective at 12:01 PM on Friday, May 29, 2020 and remains in effect until conditions in Wyandotte County warrant a change or modification. Aside from these changes to the restrictions on
bars and nightclubs, the rest of the Phase 2 plan remains the same as when it went into effect on May 22. Public health officials urge the public to be cautious about their activities and encourage them to continue basic practices to continue slowing the spread of COVID-19 in Wyandotte County.

“While it’s exciting to see more and more of our community’s businesses re-opening in a sensible, step-by-step manner, it’s also important to remember that COVID-19 remains a serious threat in Wyandotte County,” said Dr. Corriveau. “All of us in the community should still take precautions to slow the spread of the virus. This includes wearing a mask when out in public, washing your hands frequently with soap and water, and maintaining at least six feet of distance between yourself and people you don’t live with. This combination of common-sense precautions will continue to slow the spread of COVID-19 in Wyandotte County and allow us to keep moving forward in our re-opening process.”

Vulnerable populations, including people over 60 years old, individuals who have compromised immune systems, or who have underlying medical conditions should avoid close contact with others by practicing social distancing as much as is possible. The Public Health Department recommends wearing a mask or face-covering in public.

**When Will We Move to the Next Phase?**
Phase 2 will remain in effect until at least June 8. County health officials will continue to monitor key data on the status of COVID-19 to determine next steps in the community’s re-opening process. Those metrics include:
- The number of hospitalizations and deaths in Wyandotte County and surrounding area hospitals over a 14-day period, and
- The percentage of positive tests over a 14-day period.

**Why a Phased Approach to Re-Opening?**
Wyandotte County’s phased approach is designed to ensure two things:
- That local hospitals are not overwhelmed by COVID-19 cases.
- That vulnerable populations, including those over 60 years old, individuals who have compromised immune systems, or those who have underlying medical conditions are protected.

Residents with questions about the Phase 2 plan should contact 3-1-1 or visit the “ReStart WyCo” tab available at [wycokck.org/COVID-19](http://wycokck.org/COVID-19). To learn more about the County’s COVID-19 response, access important FAQs, and view additional information, visit [wycokck.org/COVID-19](http://wycokck.org/COVID-19).

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