FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 16, 2020

Kansas Governor Laura Kelly Extends Stay at Home Order to May 3, 2020
Mayor David Alvey Urges Wyandotte County Residents to Stay Home, Stay Safe, and Stay Strong

On April 15, Governor Laura Kelly continued to provide leadership in protecting public health by extending the statewide Stay At Home Order to May 3, 2020 at 12:01 AM. The Governor’s Order supersedes all local Stay at Home orders in Kansas.

“Unfortunately, cases continue to increase, and new counties continue to have confirmed cases. Internal and external modeling predicts a peak somewhere between the 19th and the 29th of April. As we have discussed in prior briefings, the total number of cases are important for determining what the impact will be on our hospitals and most importantly our ICU beds. None of our internal projections indicate that Kansas will peak by April 19,” said Governor Kelly.

The Governor’s decision to extend the statewide Stay at Home Order will help prevent further spread of COVID-19 in all of Kansas’ communities.

Further, the regional medical officers and health directors released guidance through the Mid-America Regional Council recommending extending local stay at home orders until May 15. Wyandotte County will continue to operate under Governor Kelly’s Order, while taking additional steps to manage the pandemic, including increasing local testing and conducting outreach to the most vulnerable residents.

The Unified Government is looking carefully at data and models around the peak period for infection, and a fourteen day incubation cool-off period following the peak to reduce the risk of a rebound in infections. Governor Kelly’s order provides additional time to analyze the data from local communities and health systems, and judiciously determine what the science is telling us is the appropriate period to begin re-opening.

The Governor may elect to extend the May 3rd order, and the Unified Government will continue to work closely with Governor Kelly, Dr. Norman, Core4 regional leaders, and the professional medical community to determine necessary steps to protect residents and save lives.

“Our actions must continue to be guided by the recommendations of the medical professionals, who have stated that we should maintain our stay at home order until 14 days after the peak, and we will extend as appropriate to keep our community and residents safe,” said Mayor David Alvey.

“It’s very important that residents continue to comply with the stay-at-home orders,” said Dr. Allen Greiner, chief medical officer for the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas. “We see that staying home is working, and we intend to gradually ease restrictions as soon as it’s safe.”
Dr. Greiner continued, “Governor Kelly’s Order has given medical professionals and local leaders time to further examine the data, what it is telling us about COVID-19 in Wyandotte County, and how we can use emerging information to make informed decisions about extending the Stay at Home period beyond May 3. The data will drive our decision making during this time.”

In anticipation of the gradual relaxation of control measures, local health officers, in cooperation with business, government and regional leaders, are developing a framework of “best practices” for reopening non-essential businesses and activities.

“COVID-19 does not respect county or state boundaries. Our region has worked closely together to take action to reduce the spread of this deadly virus. Through continued coordinated action with regional partners and the State of Kansas, we are seeing positive signs of flattening the curve. Now we must stay the course and follow the guidance of the health care professionals,” said Mayor Alvey.

“We applaud Governor Kelly’s extension of the statewide Stay at Home Order until May 3rd. We will continue to look at the data and take careful, measured steps to protect public health and our community,” Alvey concluded.

Residents with COVID-19 symptoms should call their primary healthcare provider or self-report their symptoms by visiting wycokck.org/COVID-19 or by calling 3-1-1. Residents with questions about the Governor’s extension of the Stay at Home order should contact 3-1-1.

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